



TROY ATHENS PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order-7:05pm
 - a. 5 board members, 4 parent attendees, Mr. DuFresne, Mr. Burden
2. Additions/Deletions to Agenda-None
3. Motion to approve the meeting-Nancy Davis, Second to approve Mr. DuFresne
4. Reports
 - a. Principal - Mr. Vernon Burden
 - i. Dr. Machesky apologizes he could not make it.
 - ii. Conclusion of 1st term-system updates. Hall pass system, getting great data and feedback. Draw some correlations with time out of class and grades. Reduction in referrals and hallway issues. Over 80% of disciplinary issues can be tied into tardiness.
 - iii. First student holiday on Halloween & November 1st. The staff had two days of professionals dedicating themselves to improving themselves. The first day was around leading differentiating instruction and how learners achieve knowledge and success. The second was training outside of curriculum i.e. Bloodborne pathogens. They also had the opportunity to choose sessions that they wanted to attend, the biggest session was on AI and how it can be used to improve instruction.
 - iv. Transition to Winter Sports from Fall Sports
 1. Many of our teams did great in the fall including Girls Golf, Girls Volleyball and Cross Country teams. They had championships and state qualifiers.
 - v. Five student athletes signed to collegiate sports. Amazing opportunities for these students. Congratulations to those students. 2 from Softball, 1 from Soccer and 2 from LaCrosse.
 - vi. National Merit Finalists-9 individual finalists. 69 individuals from Troy Schools. 13% from the state of Michigan are from Troy Schools. The community has done well in supporting and growing these students.
 - vii. Athens Family University was held October 30th. Great first start to the program.
 1. Next One will be in January-Date to Be Determined. Anatomy of how grades are constructed, made, how to improve them.
 - viii. Safety & Security Updates-Security will be piloting the visitor management system of the hall pass system. Visitors will have to give identification to the shield desk and it will print the badge with your picture and where you are supposed to be going.
 1. Improving Attendance Protocol-Will be updating and changing voicemail to make it easier.
 - ix. Thanksgiving Break-Wellness Weekend, spend with family! No homework during that time or work done by staff.
 - x. Staff Meeting-Collaborative Teams, build a collaborative space where highly educated leaders come together to address student needs

Meeting Schedule (usually in TACC unless otherwise communicated):

January 8, February 19, March 12, April 9, May 14



1. Staff must spend 50 minutes a week together collaborating on how to improve the student experience.
- b. Teacher Representative - Mr. DuFresne
- i. Mrs. Manfredi-Order forms for the show Shrek. Will have a show for students on Tuesday, week of Thanksgiving will have elementary schools attending the shows.
 - ii. Mr. Bear-Science Olympiad, first Tournament at Saline HS 60 students on the team this year. 6-10 competitions throughout the year. Very excited for a great year!
 - iii. Mr. Bear-Chemistry Club-Sugar theme halloween demo. MSU had a jam session making strawberry jam. Innovative Projects each month.
 - iv. Choir-2 students received perfect scores Anna Holt & Quin VanAmberg
 - v. Golf Team-Recognize the top students
 - vi. Project Lead & Student Council-Coats for the Cold- Boxes by Security Desk. Gently used coats. Partner with Oakland County Sheriff. Pick up early December. Average around 150 coats each year.
 - vii. December-Holiday Gift Card drive for StudentCo-2nd hour competition. Operation Blue Sleigh with the Troy PD. Around 40 families helped in the city. Around 1500 gift cards last year were collected.
 - viii. 12/12-First Blood Drive in the TACC.-Open to anyone 16 and older. Will post link on the PTO FB page. Have to have parent permission for 16 year olds.
- c. District Update-Mr. Vernon Burden-stepping in for Dr. Machesky
- i. A lot of professional development- Everyone feeling a sense of belonging, students and staff.
 - ii. Bond Updates-Series 1 has taken place
 1. Smith Middle School-Work Started in May 24, opening 2026/2027 school year
 2. Athens groundbreaking will start in 2027
 3. Synthetic turf and new tennis courts-Athens. Spectator viewing on the tennis courts. Baseball field, Softball field and additional practice field for football, will start after the spring sports and be done for next spring. A new track will go into place also for next year.
 4. Playgrounds complete some elementary/Furniture Complete-then will flip.
 5. 20 year renewal was approved in the election, no increase to taxes.
 6. Budget-Per Pupil Funding has not significantly increased over 20 years.
 7. There is a review happening around attendance and right sizing the middle schools. 750 capacity in each school to have the same ratios. Remove double splits-middle & high school.
 8. Website updates
 - a. Consistency and similar looking across all school websites.
 - b. Families should look for standard information for the school.

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- c. Schoology-Updates more recent information
- d. Contact Mr. Burden if you see anything not right on the Athens website.
- 9. Community Book Read-Anxious Generation. 10/30
- 10. Hamilton Elementary School honored as a National Blue Ribbon School.
- d. Secretary
 - i. Ford Drive
 - 1. \$1,520 was the total received from the event. We look forward to improving and doing even better next year!
- e. Treasurer
 - i. Budget Updates
 - 1. \$175 staff, \$2,975 donations, \$20 alumni Total \$4,690
 - 2. Expenses \$75, ad for the theater program
 - 3. Staff Fall COnf Meal -\$435
 - 4. Square Fee \$122.96 \$623.20 total expenses for the month
- f. Vice President
 - i. Restaurant Nights-Michele Murto
 - 1. Many different options for the year.
 - ii. Giving Trees
 - 1. Will be collecting gift cards for the staff, more information to come.
- g. President
 - i. Fall Conference Staff Dinner-Happy we could support all of the teachers!
 - ii. Staff Grants-51 requests, \$4,770.88 which was less than our budget. 42 applications for classroom and 9 for clubs. Motion to approve by V. Burden & a second by Nancy Davis.
 - iii. Mr. DuFresne can send an email out notifying them that the grants were approved. They can submit the receipts to the Treasurer email.
- 5. Open Discussion
 - a. Explore School Pay option for donations for PTO
 - b. Terrace Cafe-Big portions, reasonably priced. Students can make reservations ahead of time. Tuesday-Friday. Tips are given for a scholarship. Parents are allowed to go to the restaurant.
- 6. Committees and Chairs - see chart below
- 7. Adjournment-Adjourned 8:09pm

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Committee / Event	Committee / Event Chairperson (s)	Board Point of Contact	Approximate Timing
Restaurant Nights	Michele Murto	Nancy Davis	Monthly/Quarterly
Fall Conference Staff Dinner	Beth Mccarthy	Bidisha Goswami	October
Giving Tree	Janet Matichuk	Nancy Davis	November/December
Staff Appreciation Week	Laura Saleski	Sam Irani	April/May
Student Appreciation Event	Gretchen Morelli, Michele Murto, Connie Clark	Bidisha Goswami / Sam Irani	
Supply Drive	TBD	All	January
TFEE Basket	Lisa Peak	Janice Rae	May
Charity Week Carnival Booth	Gretchen Morelli, Connie Clark	Lisa Yaldo	February
Financial Review Committee	Jyl Boehms	Janice Rae	June/July

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