

CATA Cougar Council PTSO Minutes – February 7, 2022

The meeting occurred in the CATA Media Center. In attendance: Principal Merritt, Jaden, Megan, Dee, Tammy, Antoinette, Deb, Amy, Susan, Natasha, Kristen, Kaylee, Kim and Karen. Attendants via Zoom: Jennifer and Michelle.

Megan called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

Megan explained that today's meeting began an hour later than usual to promote participation by new faces.

Susan requested to make an announcement in reference to a Vendor Fair/Craft Fair on April 30 from 1030am to 4pm to benefit the Track Team. She said they are "looking for volunteers" to assist.

Principal Report

Principal Merritt announced tonight was the first of two In-Person CATA Crawls at the school. It provides education to students and their families about our school. The second will be Thursday, February 10.

She elaborated that she and the Counseling staff visited all the UCPS middle schools to provide education on CATA.

Thanks to the parents of CATA and the Invest in Excellence fund, installation occurred of the new speaker system in the gym. It allows for greater sound and Bluetooth device connectivity.

The Principal Patio began its evolution for open communication between students and administration. Principal Merritt plans to recruit students from each academy to participate in the Advisory Committee. Her hope is to create a time to share on the patio, a safe environment for students, to enhance the student experience.

February 9, 2022 is the Senior Bowling outing.

Share the Love Event provided for selective staff including our SRO, School Nurse, Front Office and Guidance Secretary, ISS Coordinator and Attendance Officer.

Our next PTSO Board meeting will occur on Monday, March 7, 2022 at 4:30pm.

Treasurer's Report

All information and figures are available via typed report provided at the meeting, and available upon request.

According to Jennifer, "the budget is looking good, and nothing outstanding".

The benches were ordered to provide seating for all students.

No changes in PTSO membership.

IIE continues to maintain funds.

When questioned, Principal Merritt responded with a request from the Pre-Engineering department for CTE Drones. In addition, a request for Oculus Virtual Reality equipment came from another department.

Jennifer noted that to maintain integrity with the financials of the PTSO Board, not only continue the practice of utilizing an outside CPA to verify transactions, but also two board members should confirm a transaction in the accounting book and binder to documentation. She also noted that new security measures were implemented by our financial institution to include double authentication and the use of security questions and answers.

Amy attended today's meeting to gain knowledge on the Treasurer's role, and Jennifer stated, "it's easy".

Dee received additional funds for the hospitality committee.

A suggestion arose to question Ms. Cole for any student activities funds requests. Jennifer motioned, and Kim seconded. All approved.

Student's Report

No new Business

Fundraising

The Kendra Scott fundraiser provided \$75.92.

Kim provided additional options for raising money to include Nothing Bundt Cakes, and Little Caesars'.

With LC, there are two options provided. Ordering occurs online with either home delivery or school pick up. All agreed home delivery would be the easiest option. All materials are provided to create the delicacies at home. Participants are provided with a link to order. The estimated return would be approximately \$6 for each purchase. The plan was to conduct this fundraising activity in March.

Dr. Wall will receive this information to advertise in the Chronicle.

Senior Committee

One last meeting planned in March for all committee members.

A Taco Truck food event is planned for March 22.

April 7- an outing at the Dollar Cone

Student Council does not have a Senior Committee currently, but they are in the process of recruiting for this group. Senior Week will occur sooner than later.

Hospitality

January allowed for a brief hiatus due to the hectic November/December schedule.

February holds the "Share the Love" event.

Waxhaw Kettle Corn, a favorite of the staff will be provided for staff.

Communications

A new bulletin board is in the lobby for this week's CATA Crawl events.

Scholarship

The board received education per Deb of the Scholarship application and selection process. The application process began in April last year, and March the previous year. Ms. Cole receives the applications and selection of recipients occurs based on a rubric. The application provides no personal information (sex, academy, etc). Currently, it was stated that the scholarship fund has \$1185.36.

Antoinette asked if any additional funds were donated from corporate sponsors. Jennifer responded, "no", as those funds were in the General Fund.

Discussion occurred on how many scholarships, and what amount. Initially, 4 \$250 scholarships were suggested. After further discussion, Kim motioned and Michelle seconded to offer 5 \$250 scholarships.

Ms. Cole will receive communication from the board about the scholarship.

The request was made for Scholarship committee members to include one board member. In addition, the board members must not be senior parents.

*I think Dee volunteered to head this committee, but I lost track. I will follow up to confirm.

New Business

Due to several board members reaching their maximum years of participation, new members must be brought in to fill the voids.

Antoinette will be president and will conduct either the April or May board meeting.

Michelle as VP, Amy as a CPA will be treasurer, Kristen as secretary

Membership, Fundraising, and Hospitality are open.

Megan added that the high school level PTSO board is different from elementary and middle school. Our administration is supportive and appreciative.

At the previous board meeting, Megan requested members to come up with creative activities for students. There is approximately \$675 set aside for student activities.

These activities are meant to encourage student engagement. Since CATA encompasses all of Union County, we have challenges with students from greater distances compared to a neighborhood school.

Jaden began the discussion by stating, "everyone likes food". She suggested a hot chocolate bar. The committee discussed the logistics including the use of funds, parent and community business

donations. Principal Merritt stated she would take this to her team. Alice Jules coffee provided carafes in the past. Parent participation would be an option as well. It should occur before the weather gets too hot.

Suggestions from the committee for student activities included a scavenger hunt, mini escape room, cake walk, a Paint Night or Bob Ross paint along. via Carol per an email from Megan, a food truck, Alice Jules, or another bakery for a giveaway. She suggested classes be staggered for pick up off the treats. BINGO games, as during the COVID precautionary time.

Jaden stated students enjoyed the bonfire during Homecoming Week.

Kim noted that at Cuthbertson they have a Spring Fling event with food trucks the day of their yearbook signing event.

A Talent show suggestion occurred due to the number of performing arts students enrolled.

Dee suggested a carnival style event or a door decorating event showcasing the uniqueness of each academy. Judges volunteer and each academy receives prizes.

Megan asked to have the ideas on paper with the hope of planning for the fall.

Megan revisited the topic of hot chocolate for the students discussing the low cost, student satisfaction and parent participation factors.

Deb told the committee of books related to Kindness, two different book titles, in her possession. Could we donate them to students or local organizations, "little libraries" or local branches of the Union County library system?

Megan mentioned the CATA PTSO Shared Drive access and security information permission is granted to the President and Treasurer. The drive is secure.

The committee received a reminder that the class of 2023 T-Shirt Ideas should begin soon.

Megan adjourned the meeting at 6:33pm.

Principal Merritt advertised the upcoming 80's Dance on February 19 to benefit the Theatre Competition in Memphis.