

CATA PTSO Board Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2021

The in-person Board meeting occurred in the CATA Media Center. The following members were present: Sarah, Jennifer, Principal Merritt, Deb, Jade, Jaden, Natasha, Antoinette, and Karen.

Sarah called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

The September PTSO Board Meeting minutes are available via website. Jenn motioned for their approval at 4:31pm, Sarah seconded this, and all present board members approved. Sarah requested these be available on the website and emailed to board members. This request will be granted.

Principal's Report

Principal Merritt enthusiastically announced that "things are going well". "Attendance is high, and class participation is good".

Upcoming events include: PSAT for pre-registered 11th graders on October 13. The Pre-ACT will occur the same day for all 10th graders. This is an Early Release Day for all students. Special planning will occur for the remainder of the student body.

HOCO will occur during the third week of October with a Soccer game on October 22 as the Homecoming game.

October 23 is the Homecoming Dance.

Dr. Wall is the current Student Government advisor.

October 25 is a Teacher Workday.

"Sports are busy" this time of year for students.

Principal Merritt thanked the PTSO for the popcorn gifts for teachers and staff during the month of September. Principal Merritt and Deb agreed it was great.

Sarah announced the next PTSO board meeting is November 1 @ 430pm. Sarah suggested adjusting the meeting time once a semester to encourage the participation of working parents, possibly having a start time @ 530pm. A later time may encourage the recruitment of new members to the organization and the board with the large number of board members cycling off due to PTSO By-Laws. Principal Merritt suggested a virtual or Zoom meeting to meet a variety of parents.

Student Rep Jade requested seniors walk the hallways of their respective elementary schools in their graduation attire following suit of other UCPS seniors.

Discussion occurred of the logistics of timing, transportation, and student participation.

Principal Merritt requests the student representatives create a questionnaire to show which elementary schools our seniors represent. Ideas circulated for transportation options with one bus for each cluster. A proposition stated students driving themselves to the schools.

However, the board verbalized concerns with liability for students driving during school hours and the available parking at each school. Principal Merritt suggested middle school visitations as an option as well. Principal Merritt requested Jade write her ideas to include logistic bullets, create a Google Doc with editing available to administrators.

Treasurer's Report

All financial figures are available upon request in the Secretary's notebook.

According to Jenn's verbal report, there are 333 PTO members, 194 families represented and 31 Staff memberships at this time. Membership is up from last year.

For school fundraising efforts, Megan reports there are 144 Harris Teeter accounts linked to CATA.

Invest In Excellence (IIE)

Achievement of the IIE occurred since the last board meeting. Discussion occurred of what to do with the funds after a new sound system purchase occurs. Holloway Music is the vendor for the new sound system. Next week, a quote will be available to the board. Jaden suggested asking each academy for their needs, mentioning the medical academy has older scalpels in need of replacement. A suggestion verbalized the need for seating options outside, metal benches vs. tables. Principal Merritt said this could occur over time to lessen the cost to the board, suggesting 2 each year. Jaden stated a preference for benches over tables. Principal Merritt stated the status of her Principal's Patio was a work in progress. She added umbrellas, and would like to add more beautification projects to include pine straw. The board gave permission for use of beautification funds to add to the curb appeal of this area.

Principal Merritt commented the Cougar Paws templates came to discovery. The board suggested using paint from the individual Senior Parking Spaces for a Senior Giving Project in front of the school.

The projector for the cafeteria requested by the previous student rep was tabled and deemed no longer necessary.

A conversation occurred over a CATA alumni bank account with less than \$600 as the current balance. In 2017, the alumni organization received money from the PTSO board, as a loan. Through their active existence, they had fundraising, and spent some money, but has had little to no activity over the past few years. The plan is to close the account and place it back in the general fund. Further discussion will occur on these funds at a later meeting.

The question arose over where the Publix funds go whether it is directly to the school or the PTSO.

Student Representatives

Discussion occurred over the upcoming movie event on November 10. Due to licensing restrictions, swank.com is the resource for available movies. The student representatives received the task of determining which movies would be most favored by most seniors. Senior Passholders will receive concessions for the event. However, seniors who are not passholders may bring their own snacks or beverages of choice. The question arose would a SRO need to be

present for an event. A figure of \$75 was mentioned as a financial figure for this safety requirement.

Fundraising Committee

The Kendra Scott fundraiser scheduled for November 20-21 is high priority. Publication of this event via all avenues include social media will begin November 1.

Senior Committee

Save the Date for November 29 for a special treat bag.

November 10 for the Movie night discussed previously.

October 14 is Social Media Takeover Day when Seniors share their CATA Cougar Pride via their Social Media channels using the hashtag #cataseniors2022

Jade requested a "gym takeover" a Senior Lock In for a positive, safe event. Principal Merritt stated that these events require a "working project".

A senior holiday parade is in the works for December.

In addition, the senior representatives replied that the Spring Semester has a planned event for each month from January to the end of the semester, concluding with Senior Week

Venues include Alice Jules' Coffee, Bowling @ Fox's, a senior picnic at Cane Creek, and a Field Day event.

Old Business

Student Council will take over the Spirit Rock.

The Board approved Liability Insurance in the amount of \$255 via electronic balloting

New Business

Teacher memberships: How would the board like to utilize these funds? Antoinette motioned it be added to the PTSO scholarship fund. Michelle seconded this, and all present approved.

The CATA Alumni money was addressed again, and this will be tabled at this time.

Michelle asked if her efforts with fundraising went towards the scholarship, and the answer is "yes".

The PTSO money funds projects for the student body as a whole.

Several restaurants' names were given as options for possible fundraising events.

Natasha questioned what types of businesses donate money. Any type of business may donate to the organization. It begins with the composition of a grant letter.

Explanation occurred about the scholarship selection process. This includes the student application delivered to Guidance where student's names are removed before a committee evaluates the applications. A scale ranks the students based on teacher recommendations, academics, and activities. Parent participation is a must for this committee.

Sarah adjourned the meeting at 5:29pm.