

NewTech High @ Coppell PTSO

September 13, 2010

Minutes`

Attendees:

Alison Durkee	Amanda Ziaer	Anne Tatum	Becky Gross
Bridget Bell	Connie Braun	Debbie Macziewski	Debra Rountree
Donna Broyles	Ellen Orr	Jacqueline Eslick	JoAnn Hill
JoAnn Leach	Judy Humphreyson	Karen Bingman	Karen Pearsall
Kelly Durso	Kristy Racz	Lisa Armstrong	Marca Hiller
Micah Hamner	Michele McClew	Rene Watten	Robin Pulford
Sandi Tanner	Sandy Williamson	Sylvia Dendy	Tabitha Branum
Tara Krieg	Tressa Wolford	Silvia Petrova	Daggi Wallace
Debbie Anderson	William Jones	Dani Pearsall	Mary Porter

Anne Tatum called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m., welcomed everyone and applauded the efforts of the students, staff and PTSO for the success of this past month accomplishments i.e. Schedule pick-up, Rookie Camp/Ice Cream Social, Movie Night, Rookie Parent Meeting, Curriculum Night/Open House, Homecoming etc...Also mentioned was the passing of the Tax Rate Election!

The meeting was held in the workroom at NTHS.

Motion for the August Meeting Minutes approval was made by Lisa Armstrong and a second by Alison Durkee. All approved and the motion was passed.

Treasurer's Report

- ▶ In Dana Shay's absence, Tara Reid reported cash on hand of \$21,798.77 (updated Financials are attached). With regard to the budget, Tara noted a difference on the "Website Cash Disbursements Expenses" as \$135.00 (\$435.00 is the actual amount/\$300.00 was the budget amount) noting that last years budget was for 8 months instead of the standard 12 months.
- ▶ As of September 13th, Write-A-Check has contributed to \$11,775.
- ▶ The need for an audit committee is necessary as per our bylaws. The committee will consist of the Kristy Racz V.P., Tara Krieg Member-at-Large and Sherri Waddey Faculty Member.
- ▶ Please use the New Tech **Tax Exempt form** when making purchases. This form can be found in the PTSO Box or by contacting Dana Shay @ dshay@mac.com to have it sent via e-mail.

LLC Update

- ▶ Silvia Petrova (10th grader), Dani Pearsall (12th grader) and William Jones (12 grader) gave an update on the projects the LLC was responsible for overseeing during the past 4 weeks. Rookie Camp and the Ice Cream Social were a success and they received positive feedback from the Freshmen saying they enjoyed being taught by the upper classmen because they could easily relate to them. The Freshmen also liked relaxing with the upper classmen after Rookie Camp during the Ice Cream Social. LLC reported strong feedback for the activities held during the first 3 days of school; it gave the Freshmen time to transition, acclimate and learn more about the school. Another activity was decorating for Homecoming. The halls, windows and doors were all decorated. Mr. Burn's won the door decorating contest!
- ▶ LLC is having Officer Elections and is holding a Question and Answer Panel and Debate to determine who will serve in various roles within the LLC.

PTO President's Meeting Updates

- ▶ Anne Tatum spoke about the **President's Meeting** she attended 2 weeks ago and addressed several topics covered by Dr. Turner such as, increase in student enrollment (up 180 students) primarily due to economic downturn causing less children to go to private schools. Also, during the meeting **Melody Paschall**, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, discussed rigor vs. hard work. Melody also discussed an implementation for K-12 of relevant and purposeful homework disbursement. Please note the Education Foundation Auction/Dinner on **October 16th from 7-11 p.m.** PTSO Board Members are invited!

NewTech High @ Coppell PTSO

September 13, 2010

Minutes`

Community Service

- ▶ JoAnn Hill is excited about moving forward with the Community Service Project decided on by our Senior Class. After much research and 7 outstanding presentations, they selected **Habitat for Humanity!**
Presentations were made by:
Taylor's Gift Foundation
Dallas Children's Advocacy Center
Big Thought
Dallas After School Network
Water is Basic
Captain Hope's Kids
Habitat For Humanity
- ▶ **October 6th** is the kick-off for this **Community Service Project** – This project **is for our entire school, lead by seniors**. They are excited to have a local, hands-on project that everyone can be involved in from beginning to end. The school must raise \$6500.00 before beginning the project. Tabitha encourages the school families of all grades to help with this effort. There is a commitment of 8 Saturday's to begin in the Spring to build the house. The Learners will work directly with the family to determine their needs and wishes. They will learn space planning, work with 3D graphics, budget, decorate and purchase all household furniture and necessities.

Director's Update

- ▶ **Prom and Graduation:** Kristy Racz plans to meet with her committee twice each month. They have booked the D.J. and are now ready to plan and design all facets of these special events.
- ▶ To date, there have been only 5 families who are interested in purchasing videos of this Senior event. If you are interested in having a **video**, please place your order NOW as the video company needs to at least break-even in order to work at this event.
- ▶ Tabitha discussed the role that Tom's shoes (visit <http://www.toms.com/our-movement>) will play in our school. We have extended an invitation for the founder, Blake Mycoskie, to speak at New Tech. Our ultimate goal would be for him to decide to make a shoe drop to Pam's kids in Ghana. All Seniors will be **wearing Tom's shoes at Graduation!**
- ▶ **October 15th** **New Tech and CHS will partner with Southlake** to coordinate efforts to design and style your Tom's Shoe's event! This will be held the day Coppell plays Southlake and will help us to bring goodwill to the game.
- ▶ **Senior Pictures** – Tabitha has seen the proofs and they look great! She mentioned that Yearbook pictures will be taken tomorrow and they are full body shots, so select your attire accordingly.
- ▶ **Senior Mentor Reception** – Much work has gone in to planning a wonderful Mentor Reception for Seniors to say "thank you" to the special people who have helped them through their journey. There will be a video of each Senior thanking their mentor. Tabitha hopes that the Senior Class will pass the mentorship to our Freshman Class and play that role in their lives.
- ▶ **October 13th** is the date scheduled for Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors to take the PSAT. New Tech is paying for PSAT. All grade levels will report at 8:40 p.m. on test day except Seniors, who report to school later in the day. **Please contact Debra Rountree** if you are able to volunteer from **8:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. (at the latest) on Oct. 13th**. We need **6 volunteers!**
- ▶ Grades are due out this week. Parents will receive a progress report if their child has grades of 75 or below.
- ▶ **Echo** – Thanks to a switch in the hosting software to Amazon, which is the premiere web hosting service available, parents and learners should have consistent, reliable access as soon as tomorrow. Currently, testing is being done to ensure it is stable. Parents will be able to access their learner's grades by selecting their own parent user name and password.

NewTech High @ Coppell PTSO

September 13, 2010

Minutes`

Director's Update (cont'd)

- ▶ The **Homecoming Game and Dance** went very well. The kids had fun decorating the school for Homecoming and had a great time at the Dance. One side note: One of our kids had a seizure and was rushed to Las Colinas Medical Hospital. Tabitha was with him during this time. He was released after having medical treatment. The **seizure was caused by drinking a "Redline Energy Drink"**, which can be extremely dangerous as it contains a minimum of 12,000 mg of caffeine (per their site) along with other stimulants in each bottle. 2 adults have died per Doctors at Las Colinas Medical from drinking Redline. Please caution your children against drinking this in any amount as it is very different than other energy drinks.
- ▶ We have **(2) National Merit Finalists** out of 118 Seniors! Outstanding Job! Names will be announced on September 15th.
- ▶ Tabitha thanked all the parent volunteers for their time, hours and heart! She appreciates everyone having patience while trying to new ways of doing things at the school.
- ▶ Great group of Freshmen who have joined the school family! They are already suggesting new ways to make the school better!

Volunteers

- ▶ As Volunteers are needed for special events and other school activities, please access Hot Sync OR contact Debra Rountree. She is available to show you how to access volunteers from HotSync and willing to get them for you. We have many volunteers who are willing to help!

Fundraising

- ▶ Jacqueline Eslick has extended the Write-A-Check Fundraiser to meet our goal. We currently have \$11,775.00! **Please Write-A-Check if you haven't already!**

Membership

- ▶ Alison Durkee and Michele McClew have been working diligently to get our PTSO Membership up – we are **currently at 60% and want to be at 100%**! Please make sure you have joined PTSO, especially if you are on the Board or on a Committee. You can contact Alison @ Alison.durkee@verizon.net to find out if you have already joined or want to join.

Other Business

- ▶ Plan to attend our next meeting along with your committee members on **October 4th**.

Anne Tatum left us with this quote from John Wooden ~

"Things turn out best for people who make the best of the way they turn out"

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 P.M.

Tressa Wolford
Secretary