

Athens High School PTO
Meeting, November 10, 2009 4 p.m.

1. Announcements. There was discussion of the school website, which is operational. Some teachers have websites with information on assignments, etc. The school website has announcements and links.

School nurse Janalee Stock announced that there will be an H1N1 clinic at the high school sometime after Thanksgiving.

Anything the PTO wishes to appear on the web should be sent both to Assistant Principal Lisa McCoy (lmccoy@athenscity.k12.oh.us.us) and to IT specialist Jeff Slattery (jeffslattery@athenscity.k12.oh.us), as they maintain different parts of the website.

2. Treasurer's Report. There was no report, as Treasurer Ruth Dudding is tied up at the County Health Department. President Lisa Quinn noted that we have money to spend.

3. Membership/fundraising. Discussion of getting the membership forms out and collecting donations.

4. Email list. Our contact list is a patchwork made up of information gathered from the PTO membership forms; an e-mail list compiled at the Middle School a couple of years ago that includes families of students now in the High School; and addresses that have been entered from the emergency contact forms on file in the AHS attendance office.

Volunteers needed! to continue to enter these addresses at AHS. Two at a time are needed; contact Lisa Quinn at quinnl@ohio.edu.

Assignment: Lisa Carson will check on whether AMS PTO is still compiling lists that we can use in future years.

5. Teacher requests. Lisa Q. reported on PTO funding of various teacher supply requests last year. We have money available, and teachers need to know that they are likely to have a request granted if it is both reasonable and specific. Requests under \$100 are pretty readily granted; above that

there is more scrutiny. There is an on-line form to complete, and requests are considered at PTO meetings.

Assignment: Lynn Lovdal will contact teachers, as she did last year, to remind them of this opportunity.

6. PTO officers. New officers are needed! President Lisa Quinn is anxious to be replaced. She is willing to serve as Treasurer, but would happily defer to someone with greater financial expertise. Other current officers: Lynn Lovdal, Vice-President; Ruth Dudding, Treasurer; Lisa Carson, Secretary.

Volunteers needed! Please consider volunteering for one of these offices. No election will be necessary....the time commitment is not onerous.

6. Dinner for teachers at parent-teacher conferences. Lisa Quinn noted that we missed the opportunity to do this in the fall but we can do it for the winter conferences in February. It was agreed that the PTO will purchase prepared food for the teachers for February 4, 2010.

Volunteers needed! Please be ready to get involved with the logistics if possible, and consider cooking something to contribute if your time and tastes permit.

7. Lighting at Route 33/Johnson Road intersection. Michele Papai reported that she has gotten from Andy Stone information about whom to contact to get better lighting at this dangerous intersection.

Assignment: Michele agreed to follow up and draft a letter urging the improvement of lighting in the area. She will also contact neighboring businesses and churches for their support.

8. Drug/alcohol use by AHS students (and others). This issue seemed to draw more people to the meeting than usual....

There was considerable discussion, including but not limited to:

— The phrasing of the issue in our meeting announcement, and the perception that our nascent group is primarily concerned about on-site drug use at the school, and the school's handling of it. It emerged that the school looks into substance abuse only when it is either evident or when it has been

reported, and both of these are rare occurrences. There was consensus that our involvement should focus on education/prevention and not reporting/enforcement.

— Sharing of experiences and concerns about our kids' access to abuse substances. Some discussion of the problem of parental substance abuse.

— Sharing of information about Community of Concern, an organization with chapters in many states that provides education on these issues. We may wish to use some of their materials or to investigate what materials are available.

—Discussion of what to do next; when/where to meet; how to publicize; how to direct our energies and the energies of those who join us.

9. Future meetings. A PTO meeting is scheduled for Jan. 5, 2010 in the AHS library—after 5:00 p.m. to accommodate people for whom our meetings have been too early; exact time TBA.

Assignment: Lisa McCoy will check on the room's availability.

A prior meeting is tentatively scheduled for Dec. 1—probably in the evening—at which we hope to draw in many parents for a low-key introduction to this issue, perhaps with the help of veteran counselor Rockin' Reggie. Small group discussions to follow?

Assignment: Michele D. and Lisa C. will meet with Reggie and see about his participation.

With respect to this meeting, please be thinking about how to publicize it and what you would like to see happen there. We will not be meeting beforehand, so we need to decide on all these matters via e-mail and phone.

Lisa Carson, Secretary