

allAlderdice PTO Meeting, Thursday February 14, 2019, 6 pm

1. President Amy Constantine opened the meeting
2. Minutes of January 2019 meeting approved.
3. Treasurer's report: Amanda Godley
 - a. The PTO earned approximately \$450.00 in spiritwear sales and has a \$10,783.64 balance in the account and no change in Dragon Spirit account.
4. Grants Report -- Amanda Godley and Robert Aber --
 - a. PSE grant for 15 laptops for students which includes computers and maintenance. Voted to support. Grant passed for \$5,145.00.
 - b. Requested by Ms. Withers. \$27/student and money for certification projects for the Red Cross. PTO agreed to fund one-time costs at \$10 per student. Voted to support. Grant passed.
 - c. Requested by Ms. Madden Harold. A grant for \$250 for a writers'/actors' collaborative for emerging screenwriters and actors to have skills workshops with industry professionals. Voted to support. Grant passed.
5. Dr. McCoy – Principal's report
 - a. It's been relatively quiet in school. There is a lot going on with sports and playoff games. The students have formed a club that is organized around opposing gun violence. The club held a moment of silence on the anniversary of the school shooting in Parkland FL.
6. FACE Report – Raechel Palmer
 - a. The Title I audit was conducted, with parents helping by meeting with auditors. The school received positive feedback from the audit. It was impressive that parents participated.
 - b. There will be an after school program through Jewish Family and Community Services to assist immigrant/refugee ESL students with college applications
 - c. On March 7 from 6 to 8 p.m., a program called Shred Hate will be held about how to bully-proof your child at PPS Sunnyside
7. Student Report by 9th grade president Nate Sirlin – there is concern among students about vaping in the bathrooms and the closure of bathrooms to try to stop it. This makes it difficult to use a bathroom and report to class in a timely fashion. 10th grade president Neel Willis expressed these same concerns and suggested that students should know which bathrooms are open so as not to have to search for an open bathroom and miss class time. Dr. McCoy said he would try to alert students about which bathrooms are open.

Dr. McCoy stated that it's difficult to monitor the bathrooms for vaping, which is against school policy, and balance that with the need for using the bathrooms. He stated that if a student is found with a vaping device, it is confiscated. Previously, if a student was caught with marijuana, regardless of how much, they'd be suspended for ten days with alternative placement. Starting at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year, this policy changed to where, if a student is found with less than five grams of marijuana, they will receive a 10-day suspension and diversion classes. If a student has more than five grams they will receive a 10-day suspension and alternative placement.

On March 1, the policy will change again. Students caught with less than five grams of marijuana will receive a five-day suspension with five days held IF they complete a diversion class. If a student is caught with more than five grams of marijuana, including liquids, they will be suspended for ten days with alternative placement and with the diversion class. The 9-hour class is spread out over three weekdays or two consecutive Saturdays and will focus on the effects of drug use, how to handle peer pressure and how to make better choices. Parents' help is needed to educate and enforce these rules. The SADD club has been posting anti-juul materials.

It was suggested that a letter to parents from the health department about juuling might be helpful to parents for understanding the issue of vaping. There was a discussion about the connection between mental health issues and substance abuse, and that punishments don't help in that circumstance.

8. PTO Business – Amy Constantine.

Anyone interested in serving as a PTO officer should email Amy at prezallderdicePTO@gmail.com

9. Community Events – Amy Constantine

a. The Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held at 7 p.m. on March 28, 2019 at Allderdice. Honorees are Patrick Ball, PhD (1983); Jeffrey Ballou, MA (1985); Daniel Borzutzky, MFA (1992); Marsha Lillie-Blanton, PHD (1972); and Edgar Snyder, JD (1959). Rika Maeshiro of the Alumni and Friends of Allderdice spoke about how this event will be a great opportunity for students to see and meet outstanding graduates.

b. There will be a Black History Month Lecture - Black Power and Black Politics of the 1960s -'70s, free at Heinz History Center on Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 6 to 8:00 p.m.

c. Jen Schnakenberg of the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy spoke about the Parks Listening Tour - Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy will be gathering feedback on what neighbors love and what they would love to improve about their parks on Feb. 20 at 6 p.m., Oakland Career Center's Community Room (294 Sempole Street)

8. Meeting adjourned.

Dr. McCoy opened the PSSC on Financial Aid.

Attendance - approximately 28 attendees.

Next PTO Meeting March 14, 2019, 6 p.m.

Amy Constantine, acting PTO Secretary for February meeting

February 27, 2019