

Allderdice PTO Meeting, Thursday January 10, 2019, 6 pm

1. President Amy Constantine opened the meeting
2. Minutes of November 2018 meeting approved.
3. Treasurer's report: Amanda Godley

a. The PTO earned \$1,017.28 with a \$10,066 balance in the account and no change in Dragon Spirit account.

4. Grants Report -- Amanda Godley and Robert Aber --

a. 1st grant for AACS group to take a college trip to NYC and historic sites in Harlem. Asked for an indeterminate amount and we generally allocate \$10-\$15/student. Janet Kinnane said 46 students will be participating. They have done a lot of fundraising. Trip is this spring. All classes eligible and all can go. Voted to support. Budget is for \$2,000; Grant approved for \$645.

b. 2nd grant request: requested by Katherine Bienkowski, English teacher, ask for books for independent reasoning and offer a wider range of books for students for book clubs. She requested \$253 to buy two books to enhance her classroom library. Grant passed.

c. 3rd grant request: Requested by Ms. Withers. \$27/student and \$ for certification projects for the Red Cross. Robert Aber asked why isn't the district paying for this? Dr. McCoy – discussion about funding things that are for certification. Continued discussion and Dr. McCoy will check with the district paying for this certification fee. She can come to the next meeting and everyone to hear from her. PTO would consider supporting funding \$10/student. Dr. McCoy will follow up on other funding. Motion to fund \$10/student. Grant tabled until we learn more. Grant not passed, tabled.

5. Dr. Mc Coy – Principal's report

a. Most of the presentation and evening concerned the tragedy that occurred last night with the murder of Jonathan Freeman, an Allderdice junior. Principal and Vice Principal went to the classes to discuss with the students and their needs in this tragedy. Parents notified through email. Ms. Genter discussed what her interactions with the students and classes were today and her meeting with the students throughout the day. More information for helping the family will arrive in notes in the coming days. This murder is an ongoing police investigation. PTO members expressed wish to support family of Jonathan Freeman and school. PTO offered our support to all as school sees fit for his family and the students affected by the tragedy. Ms. Genter reported that the staff is already speaking with students and working out how they will honor their fellow student.

b. Following was a report on a rumored threat on retaliation tomorrow, Friday, concerning a group of Allderdice students who got into a fight at the Squirrel Hill Get Go last

Friday. Threats of violence against the school came on Monday, with continued threats of violence on Friday coming through the week on social media. Some said it was posted. Students reported multiple sources of threats, but little evidence found. These threats are an ongoing police investigation. There has not been any information to link the Homewood death with the threats or fights on Friday at the GetGo. The district has decided to have extra security for the school today and tomorrow. Dr. McCoy took questions:

Q: Is there a name of person making the threat. Yes

Q: IDs no longer scanned on entry to the school. How are people checked on? Dr. McCoy staff check the entrance.

Q: What's the difference between a full lock down and partial lockdown? District policy is to have a lockdown following a tragedy of yesterday. People have to have a scheduled appointment to come in the building. Full lockdown – no entries and no movement during class time.

Q: At far as they know, the fight last Friday and last night's murder are not related.

Q: The kids in the video were identified – are there consequences? Dr. McCoy – students are under school care from time leaving school until arriving home. Yes they were disciplined.

Q: Plan for tomorrow is modified shut down and people are in fear. It could change by tomorrow and continue through next week.

6. FACE Report – Jessica Porter

a. Multicultural dinner went well

b. Jessica and Rachael Porter discussed their engagement process with families

c. Tonight 9th grade (Nate Sirlin) and 10th grade class Presidents introduced

7. Faculty report by Ms. Hartz discussed the writing center up and running and math tutoring form CMU. Writing Center has students, paraprofessional, Pitt doctoral students and would like to get the support of parents. Math tutoring is dependent on volunteers and would like to find a way to get volunteers for the period of tutoring during the lunch period 10:15 – 1:15. Writing center is 5 days per week and covers lots of areas. Will send out an announcement to seek out volunteers. It's easy to help people get clearances. Amanda Godley said volunteers can google Pittsburgh volunteers and the web page makes it easy for people to get on line and through clearances. If you have lived in the state 10 years, you don't need FBI clearance. Math needs are across the board; writing assistance is largely on college essays (especially at this time of the year).

8. PTO Business – Amy Constantine. Thanks to Dr. Srinivasan and volunteers Janet Kinnane and Sukanya Srinivasan for selling Spirit Wear. Basketball team is 6th in the state and PTO is selling Spirit Wear on Tuesday at game versus Obama.

9. Community events – Janet Kinnane –

a. Janet met Stephanie Flom, Allderdice alum, Director of Pittsburgh Arts and Lectures and with their Community engagement staff offering enrichment opportunities. March field trip to Carnegie Main library to hear awarding winning Mexican writer Valerie Luiselli is on March 11. Ms. Levenson and Ms. Porter are taking students. Tickets and transportation provided.

b. Center for African American Poetry and Poetics at University of Pittsburgh is bringing Poet Terrance Hayes to Heinz Chapel, open to the public. Jan 24 @ 7pm

c. Terrence Hayes is having a free poetry workshop at the Homewood Community Engagement Center, Jan. 25.

e. Ana Radovic, MD, Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine is speaking at PSSC on March 14 meeting. Title of talk “Managing social media so it doesn’t manage you”.

f. Carolyn Anderson, PhD and Allderdice parent will speak at PSSC meeting on April 11 and share her personal story with teen substance abuse disorder and their family’s journey with drug addiction treatment.

g. Global Links volunteer on half-day Fridays, February 1 and February 22. Always looking for parent drivers, leave Dice at 12:30, back at 3:30. Contact sophomore Molly Potts at mollp820@gmail.com who arranges trips. Or janetkinnane@hotmail.com who helps arrange drivers.

8. Meeting adjourned.

Dr. McCoy opened the PSSC on Equity, Race, and Culturally Responsive Teaching at Allderdice.

Attendance approximately 28 attendees.

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

Sabina Deitrick, PTO Secretary

January 10, 2019