

## **Allderdice PTO Meeting Minutes, Thursday March 14, 2019, 6 pm**

1. President Amy Constantine opened the meeting

2. Minutes approved.

3. **Treasurer report** by Janet Kinnane

a. The PTO earned \$827 in Spirit wear sales and \$100 in membership dues. There is currently \$9,646.26 in the account. Dragon Spirit account still has \$30K, with \$5K approved for computer grant.

4. **Principal Report** by Mr. Dobies

a. March 6<sup>th</sup> all juniors took free SAT in school.

b. Sports update:

Girls basketball lost in playoffs to State College

Boys basketball lost to Mt. Lebanon

Fencing team won their championship

c. Students have registered for 791 AP tests, which is slightly lower than last year. The NIMSI grant ended last year which offered a monetary incentive to encourage students to take STEM subject AP tests.

d. Spring Musical will be Leader of the Pack

e. The Pittsburgh Promise – Walk for One Promise, 5K walk or virtual run, is May 18, starts at Allderdice this year, 8 a.m.

f. Change in suspension policy started March 1: the school district changed its suspension policy for drug/alcohol-related issues –first offenses are reduced to 5 days from 10 days, with an aim to get students into counseling. Suspensions are down everywhere because of restorative practices. Allderdice has had about 25 drug suspension this year. Can get suspension data on district website. Or see Post Gazette article about it.

<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/education/2019/02/13/Pittsburgh-Public-Schools-to-adjust-suspension-policy-for-marijuana-possession/stories/20190>

7. **FACE report** – Jessica Porter

a. Student Work Permit applications done in school on April 3rd. Parents need to complete the form with their student. Copies are here and in the office. Students need to have a photo ID and be 16 years+.

b. Career Seminars – three are scheduled for 30 or 40 students. See save the Date announcement.

#### **8. Grant Report -- Robert Aber –**

a. Grant for microphones for the Theatre Department: Alumni and Friends of Allderdice (AFA) have covered most of the cost. Mrs. Herald has asked for the PTO to cover the rest of the cost of \$735. Grant passed unanimously.

#### **9. Student Reports**

a. 9<sup>th</sup> reps – Nate Sirlin and Jacob Goldberg. The student reported on the continued terrible conditions of the bathrooms. Many bathrooms are still not open. They brought up bathroom issues at the last PTO meeting and report nothing has been done since then. Girls bathrooms in Annex on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor were closed. In the girls' bathrooms, there is no toilet paper, no hand soap, and no locks on the stall doors. For the boys, some stalls don't have doors.

b. 10<sup>th</sup> grade reps – Sophia Wynn and Vivienne S. Gilgunn: Sexual harassment is the issue. The student feel like the issues aren't attended to and it was hard to report and was a bad experience. There needs to be more awareness. The hallways and stairwells are where a lot happens. Counselors are not all that approachable. "We need board meetings for the student council to hear what students have to say." Freshman reps said they would communicate with their grade.

c. 11<sup>th</sup> grade reps Jalynn McClary and Daniela Naumov – their grade lost two students: Jonathan Freeman and Suemari Dixon Smith which has been very difficult and all are trying to finds ways to reach out. The school is struggling with those losses. Another concern was that there isn't lunch on half days and students asked if they could have lunch instead of breakfast on the half days, something simple PB&J, fruit, for example. d. 12<sup>th</sup> grade rep Gia Gibson, said the 12 graders are ready to finish. Prom is coming up. Students have no school spirit after a difficult year. She and her VP are trying to come up with something to create some.

Administrative rep Mr. Dobies spoke to bathroom issues: reported that there is a lot of vandalism. Reports don't come until later. Janitors then lock the doors. Dr. McCoy put a note out that the doors stay unlocked. Student response on the amount of vandalism – We have to take this on ourselves. One student said she didn't use the Allderdice bathrooms all year. The school locks the bathrooms before fire drills. Mr. Dobies has been working with the 11<sup>th</sup> graders for three years on the culture. First year, the cafeteria was filthy, now it's clean because students take ownership.

PTO President Amy Constantine thanked the students for coming to the meeting and presenting for each class.

#### **10. Community free events - Janet Kinnane**

Cyber bullying: intervention and prevention, panel discussion sponsored by Pittcyber on March 27 @ 5:30 – 7:00 at Pitt School of Law, University of Pittsburgh Law School

Maggie Haberman, NYTimes Pulitzer Prize reporter, speaking at Chatham University Chapel, April 3 @6pm

Allderdice Hall of Fame event March 28 at 7pm

-Sabina Deitrick, secretary

Website [AllderdicePTO.org](http://AllderdicePTO.org)

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