

AHMS PTA, MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTES, 12/8/20

ATTENDANCE: Julia Papellas, Melissa Riviere, Jen Knott, Patrick McGarry, Colin Riviere, Julianna Papellas, Angela Stewart, Karen Cahn, Karis Naeher, Mary Beth Adelman, Charles Sutton.

Meeting called to order by Julia Papellas at 6:34pm.

SECRETARY REPORT:

Meeting agenda emailed & presented for review.

November 2020 Meeting Minutes (emailed & presented) are accepted by Jen Knott, seconded by Julianna Papellas.

PRESIDENT'S REPORTS: Julia Papellas

2020 AHMS PTA Bylaws (revised per the updated PA PTA Model): The 2020 AHMS PTA Bylaws were emailed to the membership on Friday, November 6th and on Monday, December 7th. Motion made to accept the Bylaws. **Bylaws accepted** by the membership: Julia Papellas, Melissa Riviere, Jen Knott, Patrick McGarry, Angela Stewart, Karen Cahn, Karis Naeher.

Benefit mobile app: <https://www.benefit-mobile.com>

Each purchase earns between 2% – 20% of the transaction total for the **Abington Heights Middle School PTA**.

"Thank You" to our new Sponsors: Janet, Lizzie & Abbey Erickson.

VP'S REPORT: Melissa Riviere

A Call for 2021 Board Members: A call to the membership to consider becoming a Board member. Perhaps a group of friends would consider heading the AHMS PTA. 5th grade parents would be ideal. If you're interested, please email ahmsptanominations@gmail.com. The current Board would love to bring you in and help you prepare for a summer transition.

TREASURER'S REPORTS: Jennifer Knott

Abington Angels Funds. \$1,427.81 was transferred to the Abington Heights Civic League, Inc. (AHCL) on 11/22/20. The Abington Angels program has moved from the AHMS PTA to the AHCL. The AHCL formally agreed to adopt the Abington Angels program from the AHMS PTA at their November 2, 2020 General Membership Meeting.

Emotional Support Funds. \$610.32 was transferred to the Abington Heights School District's "Special Education Account" to be used exclusively for Kathleen Sanders' "Emotional Support Class" (AHMS).

Restaurant Fundraisers—

Panera, 11/28: \$34.05 (pending); four families participated.

Texas Roadhouse Gift Card sale: \$48.50 (pending); eight families participated.

Rosario's Week, 11/30-12/3: TBD

Financial Reports:

Beginning Balance 11/1/20: \$26,336.58

Ending Balance 11/30/20: \$27,202.87

Deposits: \$3,280.30

Withdrawals: \$2,414.01

2020-2021 Year to Date Profits—

Apparel \$3,234.84

Membership \$968.91

PTA Donations \$250.00

Workin' It Out \$67.25

Amazon Smile \$99.93

eScrip \$684.41

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Patrick McGarry

AHMS hopes to keep the hybrid model into the new year. Students are happy; school is busy. AHMS is being flexible with parents moving students from virtual only to hybrid and back. Approx. 340 students are in the bldg. M, T, Th, F. There has been no Covid-19 contact traced within the building. Exposure now requires a 10-day quarantine (14-days prior). One positive case exists right now at AHMS from a Thanksgiving exposure. The school operates in "cells"—separated by groups, but with a common goal.

Comets Community Day (possibly next week): students making "thank you" notes, cards, videos, messages to the community.

Spirit Week in January: A fun boost for students.

Pajama Drive: the 4th year of the AHMS PJ Drive just finished with approx. 80 new pajamas collected.

PTA's Virtual Bingo: Admin. & Teachers have a full day (until 3pm) on Wednesday, Dec 23. Students are released at 11:20am. Rather than the PTA's planned 11:20am start, Mr. McGarry suggests it as an "in school" activity. All students are virtual on Wednesday, and "in-class" 7:30–11:20. Suggests 1-hour of Bingo, 8:30-9:30am or 9-10am.

Attendance is historically low on this date, 75%. Mr. McGarry will get with the Teachers to hear their thoughts, and get back to the PTA with a player-count and plan by Monday, Dec 14th.

Team Funds: Mr. McGarry questioned the availability of PTA Team Funds. PTA confirmed \$500 available for each Team, or \$1,000 for each Grade (5th, 6th, 7th, 8th). Teachers are encouraged to begin thinking of fun/creative ways to spend their funds.

8th Grade Class Day: Mr. McGarry questioned the availability of 8th Grade Class Day funds. PTA confirms that the PTA has budgeted \$700 for the 8th Grade Class Day (graduation). The 8th grade committee is raising funds for special end-of-year 8th grade celebrations. The 8th grade committee is raising funds for special end-of-year 8th grade celebrations. \$26.57 in bracelets + \$237.73 in MarketPlace concessions = \$264.30 has been raised so far for those special celebrations.

End-of-year activities: It would be fun to do a **Block Party** for each Team as a Field Day. PTA suggests a **design contest** for the students—with the help of the art department—depicting their thoughts on “2020.” The PTA would produce & purchase a t-shirt with the winning design for every AHMS student.

NEW BUSINESS: Julia Papellas

Virtual Bingo: The PTA is trying to organize a FREE Virtual Bingo Event for all the AHMS students and their families. We’ve suggested Wednesday, Dec 23, 11:20am—right after (all virtual) school dismissal. Bingo Winners would receive a Gift Card. Between games, names would be drawn to win a Family Fun Basket. Every participant’s name would be entered into the drawings. (PTA members have donated all prizes.)

The PTA cannot have access to the school’s Google acct for students to use their school email logins, and would have to purchase a month of (high participation) Zoom for \$100 to host the Bingo event/meet independently.

Virtual Bingo Cards available for \$10/100.

Following Mr. McGarry’s suggestion, it will need to be decided if it’s in-school or out-of-school.

NEW BUSINESS: Jen Knott

8th Grade Texas Roadhouse Rib Rally: This 8th Grade Fundraiser offers \$10 To-Go Meals. Online pre-orders will be taken January 4th–20th. Families can share the link with their family and friends. Orders to be picked up in Dickson City on either January 27th or 28th.

The 8th Grade receives \$3 per meal ordered.

Instagram: ahms_pta The PTA has opened an account, so if you’re on Instagram please follow.

Disposable Masks: As a benefit of our apparel sale, we have earned 511 disposable masks. 100 have been donated to each the Boys & Girls AHMS Basketball Teams (200 in total). Please contact jenknott73@gmail.com if you have suggestions for the remainder.

OLD BUSINESS: Mary Beth Adelman

AHMS Odyssey of the Mind: AH has been involved since 1998-99. Consists of vehicle, technical, structural, and dramatic problem solving. Kids solve & present solutions at competitions. Students do their own work, but “learners” are encouraged to teach students new skills. Competitions consist of presenting an 8-minute recorded skit of their (main problem) long-term solution, followed by solving a spontaneous problem on the spot. Judges score these 2, plus style points for their long-term solution.

Pennsylvania is 6 regions, we’re NE Region. 5th Grade is Division 1. 6th, 7th, 8th Grades are Division 2.

Students begin joining teams in the fall (October) although the cut-off is not until January 15th. AHMS has five teams this year. They are meeting virtually.

Teams are up to 7 students and 1 adult coach. They can approach their recorded skit any way they would like. They should consider their presentation with creativity.

AH would love to have 1 more Team added to Division 2.

The first competitions submissions must be made by noon on March 6th.

Please contact Mary Beth Adelman, 570-586-2358 or AdelmanHMB@yahoo.com for more information.

NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING: Tuesday, February 9th, 6:30pm.

Meeting Drawing: All meeting attendees names were put into a drawing, and Patrick McGarry’s name was drawn as the winner of this meetings prize—a Comet’s t-shirt.

Motion to adjourn was made by Julia Papellas at 7:24pm. Motion seconded by Charles Sutton.