



**Albany High School**  
*Meeting of the Parent/Teacher/Student Association*



**DATE:** September 8, 2014

**MINUTES**

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

**1. Welcome, Introductions, Recognition, and Public Comment:**

Welcome by Kendra Knowles, PTSA President.

Public Comment: Deidre Green made a presentation to the PTSA regarding the Parcel Tax that will be on the November ballot, Measure LL. In 2015, Albany's Measure I will expire, eliminating the source of \$1.3 million in annual funding for Albany schools- money that Albany's educators and students cannot afford to lose. Measure LL replaces the temporary tax authorized by voters as part of Measure I. The community and Albany educators are coming together to spread the word on this very important issue. Given its importance, recommending that the AHS PTSA endorse Measure LL. The proposal is to extend it for another 6 years. The parcel tax would be flat for each of the 6-years (\$278) beginning July 1, 2015. Allows the rate to be adjusted each year by the change in CPI; direct the funds to maintain programs and services at risk as direct result of a reduction in State funding; preserve funding for reading and math support; science; technology; art; music and library services; etc. For further detailed information go to: <http://www.albanyschoolexcellence.org/news>

Volunteers are needed for lawn posters, flyers, mail ballots. All work has to happen between now and October 10. CALL OUT TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING. Go to <http://www.albanyschoolexcellence.org> and click on "Volunteer". Need 200 volunteers to make this endeavor a success and need approximately 50 more.

**Action:** Motion by John McKennon for AHS PTSA to endorse Measure LL. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**2. Treasurer Report:**

Authorize expenditures made through September 5, 2014, check #1133 (\$138.25); and #1134 (\$113.06).

**Action:** Motion by Sarah Oldershaw to approve Treasurer reported expenditures. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS**

**3. Student Report:**

Amberlyn Saw, Senior and Student Representative for Leadership addressed the PTSA. Ms. Saw reported that Student Leadership has been trained and implemented a new system that allows them to work more efficiently. ASB elected officers will also be sent to the 1-day training. Club Rush happening at end of September, but because Homecoming is right around the corner, the focus is on homecoming activities (the main event of Fall Term). Class Councils working on their t-shirts and competition events for this major event. There

will not be a homecoming dance this year due to lack of attendance last year and interest. Instead, Homecoming game will be the main event; roses will be handed out to the court during the Homecoming game.

A group of students received a grant from the Lawrence Hall of Science that will allow them to create a haunted house in gym. Lawrence Hall of Science issued the grant because the students will be combining Science with Halloween. The first portion of haunted house will be for little kids and later for older kids. Open to students and the community.

Question re clubs. Club Charters are still being reviewed. Usually have about 20 clubs for every club rush. Question: Looking for list of clubs. Answer: Listed on the Leadership Board, with Advisor name and room number. Recommendation made to have all clubs listed on the website.

#### **4. Principal's Message:**

Dr. Barone provided overview of changes in AHS. Every year have a theme that guides professional development with staff and programmatic shifts. Last year it was around collaboration and connection with disciplines. This year, it is flexibility. Flexibility aligns with Albany School Flex program. Theme is around teachers being flexible around how they teach (interventions, etc.) flexing the structure of schools to meet student needs (independent study, on-line options; take classes on other schools and credit here; tutoring). Welcome MacGregor school and how integrated that program has become with AHS. Do not have a single student that is only at MacGregor; all blended at AHS and MacGregor which fits with model of flexibility in meeting student needs. MacGregor staff also teach at AHS and this creates a much more unified program. Hired a coordinator of alternative education that has contributed to greater integration. Did a lot of remodeling this summer and added 50 students to roll so needed more space. Took some classes (room 109 is 2 classrooms, etc.) and made them into two. Flex expansion, started last year and built slowly to establish a solid foundation. This information will be placed on website as time goes on. Designed to meet needs of kids who have not had all needs met. This flexibility will be essential to kids who need or want to take courses that are not offered at AHS, but offered on-line or independent study. Have students who are struggling with a key standard of a course and need some help to stay up to speed and so have hired students who are trained and paid to be tutors (trained by faculty -flex tutoring). Have kids who have failed classes and who can take on-line courses. Students who want to do something different (internships and get credit) starting to develop this now. If you have a need that is not being met with traditional school program, through flex program may be able to meet that need.

Faculty major project working on is calibrating the way they assess and make assessments in their department. That calibration of grading on assessments will help with integration programs and will know how to intervene quicker with students who may be falling behind.

Common core will continue. Have one math teacher is coaching others. Have 2 periods of an English teacher who will be teaching others and have one science teacher who will work with the science dept. to integrate the new science standards. This is aligned with common core, problem solving, scientific method, being scientists as opposed to memorizing facts.

Support classes, started 3 new support classes. 2 new homework clubs. One taught by a math teacher and one by an English teacher. Accepting referrals and recruiting students for this. This Friday will be the first grading period and identify those students who are starting to

fall behind. If you know of someone who is struggling with getting homework done, refer them to the homework labs.

Also have a new reading lab, incoming freshman, who are reading 1 or 2 grades below, enrolled already into a reading lab to help them develop love for reading and cognitive skills for reading to get up to speed on grade level. Have a small group of these and have room up to 15.

Question: Since enrollment up, what grade? Answer: Freshman class. About 1230 total students. Question: Average class size? Answer: limited by MOU (contract) 150 students per teacher per day. Now about 28 average class size, some bigger, some smaller. A lot of restrictions in schedule which restricts a smooth balance schedule. Team of teachers in Fresh and Soph grades (previously only Fresh). Question: Issue about enrollment being about over 1,000 and how stairs a hazard with the number of students. Answer: problems were addressed when added the modular classrooms. Now looking at the increase. Not necessarily unsafe, kids patient and kind, but trying to think about how to handle.

#### **5. Preliminary Budget Discussion:**

Distributed preliminary budget categories based on last year. Membership low, for now but will do a push during back to school night. Realize that some kids did not drop off the check when they received their schedule, but PTSA will be at Back to School to make a pitch for PTSA membership. Question: are the budget items mandatory v. not. Answer: Library commitment, Senior Awards, Newspaper and others are priority. District and Council insurance are mandatory. Emergency supplies need for two new classrooms. Each classroom has a backpack and lockdown box, which are funded by PTSA. Significant funding for school clubs, from yearbook, mock election, senior lunch/celebration, class block grants, Science Bowl Teams, Career Day/Job Shadow Day, etc. Recommend publicizing what the PTSA funds and that many of the clubs exist because of the PTSA funding. Recommend to have the # of families who are members and goal included in an email to all AHS families.

#### **6. Club and Activity Funding Requests:**

Need teachers and/or student groups (Clubs) need you to submit your grant request by **September 12, 2014**, so that the funds can be allocated by the PTSA and included in the 2014/15 budget.

#### **7. Parent Education Series:**


Call out to all AHS Parents to recommend Parent Education presentation topics for the 2014/15 school term. Would like to focus the PTSA meetings for Parent Education series so if any topics you want to see addressed, please let any of the PTSA Board members know (listed on reverse side of the Minutes and Agenda). Last year did Drug and Alcohol Use (very well attended); Mindfulness. **Interested in any parents who know of a great speaker who can make a presentation.**

8. Back to School night on 9/17/14 at 7:00 p.m. in Gym.

Next General Meeting October 6, 2014.

#### **9. Adjournment**

Submitted by Margarita Zamora Esmaili, Secretary



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## Web Resources

<p><b>eScrip:</b> <a href="http://www.escrip.com">http://www.escrip.com</a> Secure site allows you to sign up or update your eScrip membership</p> <p><b>AHS eTree</b> <a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ahsnews/">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ahsnews/</a> Moderated list for official AHS and PSTA announcements</p> <p><b>AHS PTSA:</b> <a href="http://ahs.ausdk12.org/committees/ptsa">http://ahs.ausdk12.org/committees/ptsa</a></p>	<p><b>AHS Website</b> <a href="http://ahs.ausdk12.org">http://ahs.ausdk12.org</a> Includes information from school, link to PTSA</p> <p><b>AlbanySchools</b> <a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AlbanySchools/">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AlbanySchools/</a></p> <p><b>Aeries:</b> <a href="https://abi.ausdk12.org/aeriesportal/LoginParent.aspx?page=default.aspx">https://abi.ausdk12.org/aeriesportal/LoginParent.aspx?page=default.aspx</a></p>
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## Calendar of Events

2014	2015
August 7, 2014 — PTSA Board Meeting	January 5, 2015 PTSA Board Meeting
August 25, 2014 — Orientation	February 2, 2015 Parent Education Presentation
August 26, 2014 — First Day of School	February 2015 2015/16 Board Nominating Committee
September 8, 2014 PTSA General Meeting	March 23, 2015 PTSA Board Meeting
September 22, 2014 PTSA Board Meeting	April 2015 2015/16 Board Nominations Due
October 6, 2014 PTSA General Meeting	April 6, 2015 PTSA General Meeting
October 20, 2014 PTSA Board Meeting	April 20, 2015 PTSA Board Meeting
November , 2014 Parent Education Presentation	May 4, 2015 Last PTSA General Meeting

## AHS PTSA Officers and Committee Chairs - 2014-2015

Position	Name	Telephone	Email
<b>Executive Committee:</b>			
President	Kendra Knowles		<a href="mailto:knowlesclan@comcast.net">knowlesclan@comcast.net</a>
Vice President	Chloe Mosqueda		<a href="mailto:mrscmos@yahoo.com">mrscmos@yahoo.com</a>
Treasurer	Sarah Oldershaw	333-1949	<a href="mailto:Saraho652@gmail.com">Saraho652@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Margarita Zamora Esmaili	520-6992	<a href="mailto:mzesmaili@gmail.com">mzesmaili@gmail.com</a>
Vice President of Membership and Volunteers	Iris Miranda		<a href="mailto:irismiranda@sbcglobal.net">irismiranda@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>Income:</b>			
Membership			
<b>Programs:</b>			
2015 Grad Night	Iris Miranda		<a href="mailto:irismiranda@sbcglobal.net">irismiranda@sbcglobal.net</a>
2015 Prom			
Instructional Improvement Committee (IIC)	Beth Thomsen Kendra Knowles		<a href="mailto:beththomsen@gmail.com">beththomsen@gmail.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:knowlesclan@comcast.net">knowlesclan@comcast.net</a>
Site Council	Mike McDonald Phyllis Pennington-Kent		<a href="mailto:m.mcdonald23@yahoo.com">m.mcdonald23@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:phyllispk@gmail.com">phyllispk@gmail.com</a>
Career Day & Job Shadow Day	Marianne Fisher		<a href="mailto:Mariannef811@sbcglobal.com">Mariannef811@sbcglobal.com</a>
Senior Celebrations	Pat Low		<a href="mailto:patjlow@gmail.com">patjlow@gmail.com</a>
Teacher Treats (monthly)	Sonja Ross Alice Ely		<a href="mailto:haneyross@sbcglobal.net">haneyross@sbcglobal.net</a> <a href="mailto:ajely@juno.com">ajely@juno.com</a>
Staff Appreciation	Lisa Kirkby Beth Thomsen Sonja Ross		<a href="mailto:breadandcake@comcast.net">breadandcake@comcast.net</a> <a href="mailto:beththomsen@gmail.com">beththomsen@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:haneyross@sbcglobal.com">haneyross@sbcglobal.com</a>
Web Communication	Marina Zavala		<a href="mailto:marina@marinasplace.com">marina@marinasplace.com</a>
Test Proctoring			