

**Arlington High School PTSA**  
**1157 Route 55, LaGrangeville, NY 12540**

## **AHS PTSA Minutes - 1/15/25**

The meeting was held in person at AHS with a virtual option for those who could not attend in person. Colleen Tkazyik called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

It was determined that a quorum was present with 14 members in attendance.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Colleen welcomed everyone and stated how great it was to see so many people at the meeting both in person and virtually. All in attendance introduced themselves.

### **Approve November/December Minutes - Paula Morro Wrafter**

Paula presented the November and December minutes which were also shared via email prior to the meeting.

A motion to accept the November minutes as presented was made by Colleen Tkazyik and seconded by Donna Bolner. All members in attendance approved this motion.

A motion to accept the December minutes as presented was made by Donna Bolner and seconded by Colleen Tkazyik. All members in attendance approved this motion.

### **President's Report - Colleen Tkazyik**

Colleen stated that back to school after the winter break was going well. She shared that we had 3 applicants for the first round of teacher grants, two of which were present tonight. She thanked everyone who applied and shared that we all are looking forward to hearing their presentations in June. Colleen stated that the Grant Committee consisted of herself, Paula Morro Wrafter, and Melissa Kolt.

Ms. Marden, one of the grant recipients, shared that she used the money today for her students in marine biology to make their final poster presentations. She stated her students were very creative and part of the process of choosing how to use the money. It was a great experience for them all and she appreciates the money to be able to do this with her students because resources are tight for some of them.

Ms. Owens' Life Skills class has been studying Global 1&2 the last 2 years so they are going to hold a culture fair to show what they have learned. They are working with Chef Losee on the food piece of it. Her students are very excited and she is very appreciative of the grant funds. Colleen asked that she let us know when it will be happening in case any members of our board can attend.

Colleen asked both teachers to please share their experiences with the grants with other teachers since we will be offering more grants in the spring with the money we still have budgeted.

She also shared that we give a set amount of money to each House to use for something for the entire grade level.

Looking ahead to next school year, Colleen shared that she will not be president next year and she will not be on the Board in any capacity either. We need to start recruiting new members to take on not only Board roles, but also chairperson roles.

### **Treasurer's Report - Donna Bolner**

Donna presented the December Treasurer's Report. She shared that we brought in \$26.83 from membership and \$37.11 from a Tops Rebate check in December. Our only expense was a check for \$1200 to pay our PTSA's portion towards the Harlem Wizards Game.

Our ending bank balances for the month were \$18,676.93 in checking and \$2,704.22 in savings. The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

### **Membership - Rachel Birsner**

Rachel shared we have 130 members as of today, but with 2,485 students at AHS we should have more. Colleen asked for suggestions for getting more members and shared that students made a great video with Art Effect last year that the PTSA paid for. It was a great experience not only for the students, but also for us as a PTSA. The video is on the District and AHS websites.

One suggestion was to set up a table at the Course Selection Night on February 6 and maybe one at the Wizards Game on February 2.

### **Harlem Wizard's Update - Colleen Tkazyik**

Colleen shared that we have our players, but we are still in need of volunteers for the Wizard's Games. Ms. Marden said she had students who need community service hours so she will share this with them and also ask Ms. Tompkins to share the information with NHS students. Colleen thanked her and asked her to have them reach out to the PTSA at [ahsptsa01@gmail.com](mailto:ahsptsa01@gmail.com) because there are only certain jobs we can have students do. The 1 pm game is now sold out (about 1000 tickets) and the 5:30 pm game has sold about 500 tickets so far. This is a big event and all the PTAs' Arts in Education budgets will benefit from it. She thanked Cristine Blake who is organizing this and Carolanne Blabac for her hard work getting donations from the community. Madison's is where we are getting the pizza from. It is a very fun day and people can reach out with any questions.

### **Executive Principal's Report - Don Solimene**

Dr. Solimene shared that Regents and end of semester exams are taking place next week on 1/21-1/24. Semester 2 begins on 1/27. During February a lot will focus on scheduling for next year. On 2/4 teachers will present in their classes about courses and on 2/6 at 6 pm the guidance department will have a presentation about courses for parents. These courses will include new courses that will be presented at the Board of Education meeting on 1/21. Soon after these presentations scheduling for next year will begin.

### **House Principals' Reports**

Dr. Bolner reported on everything that is going on in each of the Houses

**House of 2025** - Buff Bowl sign ups end on 2/7 with the game on 3/15

They just held their New Year Fest on 1/8

Winter sports are coming to an end with students in bowling and swimming preparing for postseason action

On 1/17 senior trip payment balance and roommate requests are due

Seniors need to be ordering caps and gowns, etc for graduation

It was just confirmed that there will be fireworks happening for this year's graduation since it will be the 100th graduation

**House of 2026** - Trips are coming up for My Brother's Keeper and My Sister's Keeper in January and February

Reminders have been sent that only seniors are allowed to park on campus. If you park on campus as a junior you could jeopardize your chance to park on campus as a senior.

Dates for the CAPE program which is a requirement to apply to park on campus as a senior have been shared in the House Google Classroom and on the website

Junior prom is on April 25. More information is coming soon

They are working on getting AHS re-designated as a No Place for Hate School

**House of 2027** - CTI Trip is on 1/31. Permission slips are all handed in and they have more students interested than they expected which is great. They will need a second bus.

Today's Students, Tomorrow's Teachers has practical hours associated with it. They want to expand this since only 1 student did it last year. Therefore, they are offering this opportunity to more of the elementary principals this year. It was a great experience for the student who participated last year as well as the students in the class they helped in.

**House of 2028** - They are hoping to hold a Trades Fair at AHS on 3/6. They are meeting about it with someone from Sue Serino's office on Friday.

There is an author visit they will all be attending on 1/28. This visit is open to all students as well.

Information will be shared soon about their senior trip in 2028

## **New Business**

Colleen, Donna, and Carolanne discussed how in the last few years we have done what we can to offer prom dresses to girls who may need one. A lot of this has fallen on Donna as the point person at the school, but we need to find a chairperson to take it over. Carolanne will still help with prom dress, shoes,

and jewelry donations and shared that we have 26 dresses so far and Crystal's Closet will also give us some more. She has also gotten tuxes from Men's Warehouse on occasion when there was a need. The chairperson would be the one who answered emails, made appointments on certain days for the girls to come look at/try on dresses, and give them input on their choice if needed. Carolanne shared that on a few occasions last year she brought dress options to a girl's home so they could choose one they liked. We will do what we can to make sure we help them feel comfortable. Malina asked for some information because she would like to help if the times work out for her. Marcia said she would talk to a friend of hers because she would be perfect at this, but she is unsure she has the time to do all of it so Marcia would help her. Her friend would need to join the PTSA as a community member in order to help.

Colleen brought up that we also need to start planning for Staff Appreciation Week in May. She asked for some ideas so we can start planning. Dr. Solimene suggested maybe something other than food since both the high school and the District provide food that week. Some suggestions were chair massages, yoga, or a supplies bar. We will start planning and discuss this more next month.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm

Paula Morro Wrafter, Secretary

Date Approved:

As Presented

As Amended