

Cuthbertson High School
PTSO Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2021 (via video conference)

Attendees: LaDonna Baldwin, Sonya Carter, Lisa DiPiazza, Jane Gettinger, Trish Giglio, Amy Githmark, Tracey Hammond, Allison Matthews, Liz Patel, Kelly Sanfilippo, Diana Skarbek, Jeffery Stout, Julie Swafford, Jenn Ward, Georgina Zayas-DeCouto

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m.

Approve Meeting Minutes from December: Lisa DiPiazza moved to approve; Jane Gettinger seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

Administration and Staff Update:

- Principal Stout shared 85% of Cuthbertson students attend in person contrasted with 15% virtually.
- The state has mandated students must be allowed to switch from in-person to Plan D/virtual if preferred.
- Almost all students have completed exams for the first semester. Exams went well.
- Principal Stout expressed appreciation for the gifts and support during the holiday season, which included gift cards for the staff and a “grab-and-go” lunch.
- Dr. Zayas-Decouto echoed thanks for the gift cards, lunch, and support from the PTSO.
- She communicated information regarding ACT testing, which will take place on February 23 for Juniors.
- Ms. Githmark thanked the PTSO for the holiday lunch and gift cards.
- She sent out a reminder for any staff who still wish to join the PTSO and had three more staff members join.

President’s Report:

- Allison Matthews relayed that feedback from administration and staff is always welcome regarding restaurants or other businesses the PTSO utilizes.
- The gift cards were purchased from a variety of businesses, with a focus on including local businesses.
- The PTSO was able to gift each staff member with \$20 in gift cards.
- In January, historically the PTSO holds the Souper Bowl of Caring fundraiser. Considering Covid-19 safety protocols, Allison asked what changes would need to be instituted, or if the event could be held at all. Suggestions for changes were store-bought soup instead of homemade or having the event catered.
- As Curriculum Night cannot be held in person, there was discussion about it being held virtually again as it was in the fall. Principal Stout said the option of teacher videos is being considered instead of a live virtual event, which would allow for increased accessibility and hopefully better attendance. Comments were shared that it’s helpful for parents to have some sort of Curriculum Night to garner information from the teachers.
- Allison asked if there were any needs the PTSO could help with. Principal Stout expressed a need for the school to have more student-friendly group seating and tables in the media center and guidance department.
 - His wish is to create collaborative spaces in the school.
 - These spaces would facilitate students working together in common areas.
 - This would also help alleviate the issue of crowded classrooms.
 - With the loss of income from the gyms not being rented during the pandemic, the hope was the PTSO could help support this effort.

Treasurer's Report:

- Jane Gettinger communicated highlights from the monthly financial reports.
- Membership and Invest have both exceeded the 2020-2021 budgeted goals, but are below the 2019-2020 amounts.
- Spirit wear revenue has also exceeded the 2020-2021 budgeted goal, but is below the 2019-2020 amount raised.
- The CHS PTSO was able to make a charitable donation in December to the Angel Tree.
- Other December expenditures include the A Honor Roll reward, the staff lunch, and gift cards for the Cuthbertson High School staff.

Committee Updates:**Scholarship**

- Information has been communicated via social media and the PTSO newsletter.
- School counselors have received the application information.
- Seniors may apply any time before April 23, 2021.
- This year the application process is all online.

Senior Events

- The committee is meeting next week to make plans for February.
- Communication will go out to 2021-2022 Seniors at the end of February or early March.
- Trish Giglio has volunteered to head up this committee again for the 2021-2022 school year.

Hospitality

- The December lunch event was a success and well attended.
- January birthday cards and gift cards have been delivered.
- Plans are being discussed for a February event.

Spirit Wear

- There will be a promotion in January with some items being offered at a discount.

Membership

- Five families joined the PTSO in December and three staff members.

Invest

- Currently 80 donations have been made to Invest in a Student.

Old/New Business

- Principal Stout said graduation information will be communicated this week.
- Information has been shared regarding vaccines for Cuthbertson staff.

Next meeting:

Monday, February 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Adjourn: 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Swafford
CHS PTSO Secretary