

Athens Drive Magnet High School
PTSA Meeting Minutes
September 1, 2020

**Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, school closures have prevented the PTSA from meeting in person. This meeting was conducted virtually using the Google Meet platform.*

Meeting was called to order at 6:37pm by President Lysa Fulbright

Lysa offered a welcome and introduced the current PTSA officers (hold over from previous year due to lockdown). She mentioned the need for new officers and open committee positions. These needs will be discussed at the September 29th meeting.

June 2020 PTSA Meeting Minutes, Secretary Laurie Cockman

The last meeting's minutes were provided for review.

- A motion to approve the minutes was made by Staci Mantz.
- The motion was seconded by Jill Rbaihat.
- The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report, Treasurer Staci Mantz

Only expenses so far have been PayPal fees. There have been membership fees and some donations coming in. We are currently operating on the budget approved in June 2020, but anticipate adjustments that will require a vote in the months ahead.

PTSA Program Overview, President Lysa Fulbright

Despite many committees being on hold at this time, some of our programs are ongoing.

- Classroom grants – teachers have needs in the virtual classroom and these grants are still available for teachers interested in applying.
- Athens Achievers – the PTSA is still accepting nominations from teachers who would like to recognize student performance/participation in the virtual class setting.
- Senior Scholarships (Shanna Ratashak) – seniors can apply after the first semester. The application date has not been announced at this time, but three scholarship categories will remain available to students. Students wishing to apply must be a member of the PTSA by October. Shanna is looking for volunteers interested in taking over the program – will work with them to train for the role.
- Reflections Art Program – The theme for 2020 is "I Matter Because". More information on the contest will be presented at the next meeting.

New Member Presentation, VP Sherry Skinner

- Membership – parties can join online or send a printed membership form along with a check to the school. We currently have 128 members – 74 parents, 46 students, and 8 Athens Drive staff. Tax letters will be sent out soon to anyone requesting them.
- Liaisons and Links – Sherry presented a slideshow detailing how the PTSA comes alongside other organizations at Athens Drive to support students and the school. This high-level overview showcased the booster/non-profit entities that make up that support network.
- Jag Club (guest speaker Athletic Director Travis Seese) – Coach Seese invited attendees to subscribe to the athletic newsletter and follow @athensjags on Twitter or Instagram for weekly updates. Spirit wear will be sold in the online team shop at various times throughout the year – watch Mr. Mares' weekly letter for details. Sports will be delayed until November 4th. Due to low risk, cross

country and volleyball will be the first sports to return this fall. January will bring full-scale sports schedule back to Athens. See the NCHAA website for the official schedule.

Principal's Report, Principal Steve Mares

- As of 8/31, Athens Drive has 2,075 students. Approximately 500 seniors are scheduled to graduate this June at the Convention Center.
- New procedures and processes have made the transition to remote learning smoother.
- Teachers and staff are working hard to bring class to the students every day.
- BIG NEWS – The State Board will be announcing NC graduation rates on 9/2. Athens Drive will be over 90% for the first time ever! That is the highest increase of any school in WCPSS.
- Athens Drive also has three National Merit semi-finalists!
- Staff is working to connect with the few students still struggling with device or connection issues.
- Virtual Open House was well-received. Over 200 senior attended the senior meeting and over 85 attended the PTSA info session.

Open Floor Questions for Principal Mares

Comment: *Donna Dancausse expressed gratitude to the entire staff for the way they have met the challenges of 2020.*

Q. If you signed up for Virtual Academy, can you go back to school after the first semester? Are there capacity limits?

A. Those who signed up for first semester VA can return to in-person for second semester. Return is currently based on dividing students into 3 cohorts and all schools in Wake County can handle those numbers.

Q. Some students in Adobe classes don't have computers that support the software required for the class. Can computers be donated? If donations are secured, can the computers be set up by volunteers and distributed to students taking these classes?

A. Computer donations are always welcome. Software is made available to students through a district license. The school would just need volunteer assistance wiping the computers and loading the software.

Q. Is Division I signing recognition still being allowed for athletes?

A. Travis Seese says student athletes at any level are still allowed a signing recognition ceremony. The Athletic Department can work with the student and family to plan the event.

The next PTSA meeting will be held on September 29th at 6:30pm. Location to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.