

**UAHS PTO General Membership Meeting
October 24th, 2017
Upper Arlington High School Cafeteria**

Attendees: Ali Scott, Jenny Ledman, Jon Rice, Jennifer Heck, Debbie Jerman, Cahty Pultz, Laura Hellstedt, Aimee White, Connie Adams, Beth Hammer, Diane Hobson

I. Welcome & Introductions **Cathy Pultz**

II. Superintendent Update **Kathy Jenney**

The Robotics Club now has an official Robotics Club Advisor. Robotics has developed a field of practice that will continue to be formulated, maintained and assessed going forward. Robotics will also be added as a credit course in the 2018/2019 school year.

III. Principal Update **Andrew Theado**

First, Mr. Theado thanked the PTO for all we do for the school community. At the October 23rd Steering Committee meeting, robotics was discussed and approved as a course for the 2018/2019 school year as well as an additional class which will be taught by Laura Moore. This class will potentially be Capstone related.

Mr. Theado relayed the following Capstone updates:

- Three Capstone deadlines are offered to seniors. They can choose from summer, winter or an end of year deadline.
- Thus far this school year, there have been 40 or so Capstone presentations.
- Feedback from the kids is that the three deadline choices are a great change primarily because of flexibility.
- The school has safety nets around getting students to finish their Capstone projects. It is rare for a student to not present a Capstone which is a graduation requirement, but not factored for credit.
- The school is working on the profiling of learners for the second half of the year. We need to figure out what we want from our kids. Is it critical thinking, managing stress, time management, research abilities, etc.? From freshman year on, Capstone work will be scaffolded or layered. Columbus State visit and Shadowing Day in the Spring both help students identify their interests and promotes idea generation.

There was a question to Mr. Theado regarding how attendance is taken in each class. If the student is wrongly marked absent, it usually happens in study hall when going in and out to labs or somewhere else. The school is simply trying to

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account for students. Processes have been tightened around this, but more improvements can be made.

IV. The Stand Project

The Stand Project is a community action group which was established to prevent substance abuse in youth and provide support to families of those going through abuse issues. They provide resources to and for the community. Jon Rice is the School Resource Officer (SRO) for the high school. Mr. Rice works closely with The Stand Project.

This is Mr. Rice's fourth year at the high school. Mr. Rice has gotten a group of 11 students together to put on youth lead events for the school. These students are nominated by school staff and interviewed by Mr. Rice then selected from there.

This group put on a Movie at the Marv night. Kona Ice and Donatos Pizza sponsored the event. The City's Parks and Recreation sent people to assist with the event. Captain America was selected through a vote on Schoology as the movie to watch. The event was moved inside to the auditorium due to Hurricane Harvey.

Over 100 students attended the event. The winter event may be at the Chiller with Cane's provided.

Both Jones Middle School and Hastings Middle School will be getting an SRO next school year.

Mr. Rice monitors social media. Kids are coming to Mr. Rice with worries and concerns around drinking, vaping, drugs etc. Parents also call with the same concerns.

Kids are naive to a point. They do not take into consideration that buying and selling drugs is a felony. The city and school believe in and have established a Diversion Program which will bump down the drug felony charge to a misdemeanor in UA. The goal is to keep kids sober.

The Stand Project held a Marijuana Panel last week. On November 13th from 6-9 p.m., The Stand Project will hold a Street Smart seminar which educates on the latest street drugs and challenges surrounding them. For example, marijuana wax is being extracted and vaped because it has no smell and is pure THC.

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Fifteen cameras have been added to the high school to deter unauthorized people from entering the building.

There is community discussion around closing lunch if and when the new building is built. Plans for the new building show it will have enough capacity for the entire student body to eat lunch.

The most advertised substances on social media are Adderal, pills, marijuana, cocaine, acid and edibles. Alcohol is what kids are exposed to the most because they have the most access to it followed by marijuana then pills and then heroin. Each category gets smaller and smaller from alcohol down. We need to help our kids navigate these situations.

Finsta is a fake Instagram account. Mr. Rice uses this to access social media for the purpose of seeing what kids are doing.

Mr. Rice can be contacted at jrice@uaschools.org

The Stand Project provides programming which educates parents and peers on the signs of abuse. They have partnered with Syntero. Syntero professionals know what to look for, what are the pressures, how to deal with social anxiety and social media.

Syntero is offering a Practical Parenting class on November 14th. This class focuses on where do you go to get help, resources and what are the boundaries and how to enforce these boundaries. How do you get kids to talk to you? Kids will make mistakes. Do not shame kids, but be compassionate and communicate. Please see the attached Community Resource Guide.

Website address for The Stand Project is thestandprojectua.org

A survey was distributed to the group. This survey will gather information on what the community is looking for and what needs may be.

The Stand Project has seen that alcohol usage ticks up in 10th grade, levels out in 11th and 12th grade and spikes in college.

Drug Free Clubs of America is a volunteering club. They work with schools to facilitate drug testing at random. Testing happens four times a year and results are sent directly home. The school is kept out of it. As part of the club, students gets discount cards to food establishments, etc. as a way to entice them to join.

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Drug Free Clubs of America is expensive. The Stand Project thought they were too young of an organization to take this on now.

Current statistics are as follows:

- 50% of seniors are binge drinking (how do we support the other 50%?)
- 42% of student population will have tried marijuana by graduation

Ohio has developed a tool for schools to tap into 7th through 12th grades to measure 9 different components (stress level, alcohol and drug use, etc.) The Stand Project is waiting on the results from the last survey.

The Stand Project offers a Leaving the Nest seminar which will be offered in the spring for senior parents.

V. Levy Questions

Jennifer Heck, co-chair of the Levy Committee, was on hand to answer questions. She stated that FAQ's are listed on the uaschools.org site and foruaschools.org site.

The biggest push right now is for parent support. Early voting is key. You may vote early in-person on Morse Rd between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., at the Franklin County Board of Elections and by absentee ballot.

In response to our Opposition, the strategy is to have answers to the oppositions so-called "facts" -

VI. PTO Business

- a. Website: uahspto.org - check it out!
- b. Budget
 - Budget was approved during the October meeting
 - Membership is up this year which has added extra unbudgeted revenue
- c. Mini-Grants
 - PTO has \$3,000 in additional revenue to use for grants due to an increase in membership numbers
 - We have granted Community School our maximum of \$500 for an overnight leadership retreat camp for students and some staff.
 - We have granted \$500 to The Arlingtonian for a request to help with operating funding due to a decrease in advertisers. This is a one time grant.

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- We have granted \$500 to Global Language for handheld voice recorders.

- We have granted \$500 to the UA Orchestra for a music piece to be written for the May 100 Year Anniversary Concert.

Other business:

April Minutes Approval:

Motion Aimee White
Second Jenny DeCapua
All in favor

October Minutes Approval:

Motion Jenny DeCapua
Second Laura Hellstedt
All in favor

Future PTO Meeting Dates:

November 28th - 8:30 am at Carsonie's

February 1st - 8:30 am at Carsonie's

April 6th - 8:30 at Carsonie's

Meeting adjourned