

# PTCA General Meeting, September 9, 2014

## ANCS Elementary Campus, 6:30PM

**Call to Order:** 6:35PM

**Welcome and Introductions** were given by Rebecca Hudson.

**Recognition** was given to Craig Shook for his leading of the crew to complete the playpod, and to our new ANCS Chef, David Bradley, for cooking and providing samples of the school lunch menu for this meeting.

**The Treasurer's Report** was provided by Erin Miller. The PTCA is carrying over \$5K from the prior period. Revenue is coming in from PTCA memberships (up to \$2,575 so far) and monthly dine-outs. Expenses have included the Back to School Ice Cream Social, completion of the chicken coop and playpod, and the school photographer contract.

**Please attend our monthly dine-outs.** Eat at the following restaurants between 5pm-9pm on these dates and a portion of the night's earnings come to the PTCA:

- October 19: Mezcalito's
- November 11: Tin Lizzy's
- December 9: Six Feet Under

**The Middle Campus Update** was presented by Terry Roth.

- All are invited to the Wednesday Morning Meetings at the MC from 8:30-9AM weekly. It is a great way to see what is happening at the school.
- Extra-curriculars are very important at this age. Fall sports are well underway: football and cheerleading have begun, and our first ever cross-country team has their first meet on 9/27.
- Picture day is 9/25 at the MC. Make-up day is 10/2.

**The Elementary Campus Update** was presented by Ashley Miller.

- Our Annual Yard Sale is this Saturday! Pre-sale tickets are available through Ashley Miller for Friday evening.
- Fall Fest is coming up October 18<sup>th</sup>. The event will be expanded this year with lots of activities.
- The Sustainability Committee has a work day coming up. They'll be looking for volunteers to help with weeding, mulching, etc.
- Picture days at the EC are 9/23 (K-2) and 9/24 (3-5); Make-up day is 10/1

**Additional Announcements** by Rebecca Hudson:

- **PTCA Mini-Grants are due.** Applications can be submitted by anyone who is a PTCA member. The PTCA Executive Committee will review the applications later this month. The Yard Sale is the primary funding source for these awards.

- **Volunteers are needed for monthly MC Principal Coffees.** The volunteer does not have to be an MC parent. We have volunteers in place already to help with the events, but we are primarily seeking a lead coordinator to help plan and communicate. Contact Terry Roth if you are interested.
- **Snack Guidelines** are available for the EC and will go home with students this week. Handouts are also available here at the meeting.

**Reminders** from Matt Underwood:

- **A Conscious Discipline Parent Workshop** is being held on Tuesday, 10/27. The focus will be on brain science and how to use the CD framework at home in “power struggles” with your children.
- **Our first Special Needs Coffee** will be held next Tuesday after morning meeting at the EC. All Special Education Coordinators at the EC will be attending.

**Break-Out Sessions** began at 6:50PM as follows:

1. **Technology at ANCS: A Vision for the future** *Mitch White, Board Member*
  - The Board’s Technology Committee made up of faculty, parents and staff has been working to set goals and develop a plan to achieve them.
  - Link to presentation: [http://atlncs.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Board Meeting 9-16-14 Tech Plan.pdf](http://atlncs.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Board_Meeting_9-16-14_Tech_Plan.pdf)
  - Link to draft Technology Plan: [http://atlncs.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/FINAL DRAFT Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School Technology Plan 9-2-14.pdf](http://atlncs.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/FINAL_DRAFT_Atlanta_Neighborhood_Charter_School_Technology_Plan_9-2-14.pdf)
2. **Recess, Brain Breaks, and the Playpod** *Lara Zelski, Elementary Campus Principal*
  - Discussion of how the elementary campus program supports creative and interactive play, including how the new Playpod (a gift from the PTCA) will help benefit students by providing a new outlet for their imaginations
  - For more information, see Lara Zelski’s Letter from the Principal on 09/10/14: <http://atlncs.org/letters-from-the-principals/elementary-campus-principal-letter-sept-10-2014/>
3. **Strategic Listening Session** *Matt Underwood, Executive Director*
  - The latest draft of the ANCS strategic plan is out, and, in addition to the online survey and other listening sessions, this PTCA meeting was another venue at which parents, teachers and community members can hear about the plan and offer feedback
  - Link to further details on the plan: <http://atlncs.org/board/what-we-do/strategic-plan>

**4. What's Happening in Advisory** *Cathey Goodgame, Middle Campus Principal; and Jennifer Dicki, Advisory Coordinator*

- Discussion of how Advisory at the MC looks different this year, including the evolution of the program, how and why changes have been made, and why it's an integral part of the middle campus experience.
- Parents experienced an interactive session structured similarly to daily Advisory time. For an outline of this year's Advisory Structure, see Dr. Goodgame's Letter from the Principal on 8/13/14: <http://atlncs.org/letters-from-the-principals/letter-from-the-principal-august-13-2014/>
- Link to more information on some of the foundational theories and practices behind Advisory: <http://www.wholechildeducation.org>

**Meeting Adjourned:** 7:45PM