

MINUTES
PGO Meeting
January 6, 2016

Attendees: Jen Veshia, Margot O'Connor, Lynn Hayes, & Erika Zekos

1. PGO Coffees: On January 27, Ericka Alschuler, etc will give an overview of the new semester schedule and course registration procedures. The next coffee on 2/25 will feature Mark Jackson. Another coffee may be scheduled in the early Spring, possibly highlighting the future changes occurring at ARHS – Consolidation with ARMS, changes to Semester system, etc.
2. Newsletter: The current editors are on a 3-week rotation. They plan to revisit the PGO newsletter guidelines regarding community posts to keep the newsletter length to about 12-14 posts weekly.
3. Giving Tuesday: This fundraiser brought in \$1280.00 for the PGO Operating Budget. We are still \$200 under budget, but the treasurer feels that we are in good shape because we still have the Valley Gives fundraiser in May.
4. Stop & Shop: Only 1-2 shifts at Stop & Shop have been filled this year. This year's program began in October 2015 and will end on March 17, 2016. Our total was posted as \$6373.26 on 12/31/15 (this total probably does not include the month of December). January 31st is the last day to register numbers. We currently have just over 2300 registrants.
5. PGO Grants: Staff and Student Grants are due to Mark J by Friday, February 5th. Margot will send out an All Staff email to remind staff members of this opportunity. Erika will reach out to past Student grant recipients for help spreading the word to the student body. She will also get grant info posted in the Morning Announcements and, if possible, to be read by a student over the PA.
6. Updates from Mark:
 - Refugees in Distress Grant Update: The students have contacted three potential speakers. A tentative date of mid-February (Feb. 9th?) has been set for the all school event. An Honorarium is being offered to the three speakers. The students are also doing outside fundraising.
 - Health Curriculum: A group of current ARHS students approached the Admin regarding the outdated/binary Health Curriculum at ARHS. The students are working with Rich Ferro to consider updates to the health curriculum. The students have highlighted many great resources.
 - Communication: Mark is working with AV Tech teacher Lee Larcheveque to create a Podcast highlighting all the wonderful things happening at ARHS. The first Podcast will address the shift to semester in the fall of 2016. Future

podcasts may feature teachers, students' work in and outside the classroom, and other items.

- School Governance Council: No parent or guardian has shown any interest in the open ARHS School Council position. The PGO will run the request for volunteers in the ARHS PGO News again.
 - Transition to semesters: As mentioned above, Mark is planning to do a Podcast later this week which will address the change to a new semester system. The Admin will be meeting with students as a group to discuss the impact of this change on next year's schedule and to provide guidance. A PGO Coffee in late January (1/27) will focus on this issue. There will be ample time for parents to ask questions.
 - Budget: All ARPS Schools have been charged with creating two budgets due to uncertainty over whether the Regional School Committee will change the funding formula.
 - ARMS/ARHS Consolidation: Mark Jackson shared plans for two potential consolidation concepts. One plan would have a "7th Grade Academy" and an 8-12 high school in the current ARHS building. The other would have a separate 7&8th middle school and 9-12 grade high school in the current ARHS building.
7. Volunteer Opportunities: A co-coordinator is needed for the Staff Appreciation Luncheon. Erika is considering whether to shadow Margot, the current Grants Committee chair next year as her youngest will be graduating.
8. New Business: Jen will ask the newsletter editors to post PGO meeting minutes in the newsletter. After the decision on middle and high school consolidation has been made we will reach out to the ARMS PGO to discuss implications for the ARMS and ARHS PGOs. Jen will ask the ARPS PGO about progress on the Whole Foods 5% Day application.

Our next meeting will be February 3rd, 2016 @ 8:10 am in ARHS Room 13