

Friends of UACHS - December 14, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance – Joe Timpanaro (school admin) Lulu Booker (parent), Denise Gourdine (grandparent), Erica Gomez (parent), Evanical Patterson (parent), Karindu Hill (parent), Zenobia Hill (parent), Karrington Hill (student), Inessha Hill (student), Carizma Ross (student)

- A little after 11am - Mr. Timpanaro began the meeting by discussing the current account balance of \$1,542, and how the money was raised previously. Past fundraisers included a fashion show with NJCU Fashion Org, a Tricky Tray event at Zeppelin Hall, an Honor Roll breakfast here at the school, an Applebee's breakfast and many more events.
- Mr. Timpanaro also discussed how parent involvement has slowed very much over these past two years. We fundraise the most money when we go out into the community instead of in the school. Parents tend to show up only at Report card nights. So Mr. Timpanaro proposed working with an NJCU music sorority to host an open mic/ talent show on the NJCU campus.
- Mrs. Gomez inquired about the \$10 parent dues we sent out letters for. Mr. Timpanaro said we only raised around \$200, and we will have to send out more reminders. She and other parents also raised concerns about Yondr and uniforms. Black pants are desired. Mr. Timpanaro then shared data from student and teacher surveys on Yondr, and the data is sound. Yondr appears to be helping the school as both staff and students said student achievement is higher this year. 100% of teachers want to keep Yondr.
- Mr. Patterson agrees that Yondr is helpful. Students need less time on their phones.
- Mrs. Booker says that she supports the school and its rules anyway she can.
- All parents were questioning the "no hoodie" policy as most students and most people in the community wear hoodies often and wear it often as a jacket. Hoodies are no more a security issue than pants or jacket pockets.
- Mrs. Gourdine talked about partnering with NJCU more as well as the Bethune Center, Cherry's Lounge, or Brightside tavern to continue our efforts on more community events.
- Karindu Hill agreed and thinks we should replicate successful events like the Zeppelin Hall event where we raised \$1,500.
- Mrs. Hill inquired about the "T" in PTO. Mr. Timpanaro is the only staff representative at these meetings.
- Other parent concerns were; a lack of African American studies, lack of promotion of board meetings, lack of connection with NJCU, Human Tracking concerns on NJCU campus.
- Other parent ideas included; mentor program with NJCU fraternities and sororities, more visits to and from HBCU's, more collaboration at board meetings.
- Mrs. Hill asked for a clear idea of what the next PTO event should be, and everyone agreed it should focus on the next board meeting where the school holds it's lottery. It's the most well attended board meeting and could be an opportunity to connect the community.
- Mrs. Gourdine suggested that we order pizza from Giorgio's and hold a Lottery celebration event where we raffle off items in a separate area of the school, recruit new members, mingle with staff, and bring the community together.
- Mr. Hill proposed a \$300 budget for food and other items for this event.

VOTE – Action item – a \$300 budget was unanimously agreed upon for the next board meeting lottery event on January 8th.

- A little after 1pm – the meeting was adjourned.