AMSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
September 6, 2012

In attendance: Susanne O’Hara, Sharon Hamel, Sonal Shah, Laura Wilner, Ann Richards, Melani Galante, Sara Snow, John Brucato, Jay Sweeney, Maureen Evans

Meeting commenced at 9:10 am in upper school conference room.

Minutes from the May 21 Executive Committee Meeting were approved.

Worcester Telegram & Gazette is where AMSA sports updates are featured.
Mr. Sweeney states that AMSA swim team will begin this winter, practices will be held in Westborough. Golf has already begun.

1st PTO Meeting of the year to be held Wednesday, September 12 in lower school cafeteria:
- 6-7pm used uniform sale, networking, cookbook sale, fundraising representatives, coffee, cookies, CORI checks for parent chaperones
- 7-8pm PTO will welcome new parents, introduce PTO officers, review budget, BOT update, events & fundraising review, committee chairpersons openings; Mr. Sweeney will give update on AMSA; Mrs. Bowen will answer uniform questions

Jay asked if PTO has any extra gently used gym shorts or sweats – administration is in need of extras.

Besides asking current NHS members who need community service, Jay also encouraged PTO to reach out to 9th and 10th graders via Mrs. Small when we have community service/volunteer opportunities through PTO. These students are potential National Honor Society applicants who need and want service hours to apply for membership to NHS.

Upcoming PTO meeting – Wednesday January 9 – PTO is requesting AMSA alumni/graduates to be present to talk to AMSA parents about the college experience and how they feel AMSA prepared them. Jay recommends that 4 or 5 alumni be present.
Sara described Back to the Future Event, also to be held in January – when AMSA alumni come and speak to current AMSA seniors about their college experiences. Jay says that AMSA alumni return frequently.

Spirit Week – both upper & lower schools – week of 10/15-19
Homecoming
- 10/19 Pep Rally; Soccer Game – would be ideal if AMSA could sell food at Forekicks but Forekicks will not allow, have to buy their food. John says AMSA will not pay to rent Forekicks in future for BBQ as we are paying them too much already. Perhaps PTO could sell pizza in lower school cafe before soccer game.
• Fundraising idea was mentioned to sell clothing during Homecoming weekend/at pep rally & soccer game – i.e. scarves that say AMSA which cost $4 but sell for $15; School store is focusing on PE wear; spirit wear colors should be checked in advance with Mrs. Bowen prior to purchase/ordering; Maureen has a spirit wear company which gives percentage back to education.

• 10/20 Halloween Bash (lower school), Homecoming Dance (upper school) Sharon mentioned that alumni parents have questions if alumni can attend homecoming dance. Administration states that alumni should not attend AMSA dances. Administration is not aware of any reception being coordinated for AMSA graduates. Sara will follow up with student government to see if something like a reception is planned for alumni. Several state that there is a lot of excitement for homecoming dance. Susanne remarked that Special Olympics is not charging PTO for renting facility that night because NHS students are helping Special Olympics decorate for their own event.

Comedy Night – November 2: silent auction, raffle tickets, 3 comedians – hopeful that it will be a big fundraiser. PTO is trying not to ask the same businesses over and over throughout the year for donations, so this is hopefully our big event. It was mentioned that if there are any big ticket items, they would make more money through a live auction.

Sonal mentioned that $3500 in After Prom funds have been deposited into AMSA PTO treasury for future After Prom use as “donation”.

Museum of Science 6th Grade Overnight – the 2 parents who have been coordinators the past 5 years have stepped down. PTO requests that a 6th grade science teacher could promote this event and encourage parents to promote it with their children in the 6th grade. Perhaps have something printed up about event. Jay inquired if parents who chaperone at MOS 6th grade overnight will be CORI checked; Susanne confirmed that all parent chaperones must be CORI checked; CORI’s go through Virginia Burke in office. Sharon will submit list of 6th grade volunteers to office one week prior to event to make sure all are CORI’d.

Upcoming Fundraisers:
Looking at having Restaurant Fundraisers at the Ninety Nine (nights of Student-Faculty Soccer & Basketball Games), Sorento’s, Five Guys, Papa Gino’s, etc. Wine Tasting at Vin Bin in early December would work well for people making purchases for the holidays. Jay says that a check from Target Red Card came in the amount of >$400 – Laura confirmed that PTO had encouraged participation in the Target Red Card Take Charge of Education program. Jay says he will have business office forward check to PTO.

Melani states that according to Mrs. Bowen, Upper School Student Government is requesting more dances in addition to Homecoming Dance, Boston Harbor Cruise and Junior/Senior Prom. Also looking for Mr. AMSA event in January, Mardi Gras Dance February 8, Spring Dance April 26.
Directory – form that went home to parents is confusing as it looks like parents are being asked if they want to opt out of the directory; may need to come up with new opt out form specifically for PTO directory. It was mentioned that PTO could send out an AlertNow Survey Monkey with a question: Only answer if you do not want to be listed in the AMSA Student Directory. If we go to an online directory, will need to be password controlled to guarantee privacy online. Need to ask Mr. Alvarez about online directory – he is now in charge of AMSA website.

2011-12 PTO Gift to AMSA is large bulletin boards in all buildings to advertise all school flyers. PTO was told Eric Lane will purchase and install bulletin boards for PTO & PTO will reimburse, however Eric has not confirmed. Ann will check with Eric.

Susanne shared information about personalized boat shoes that could have AMSA logo on them; suggested that they could be part of school uniform or available as an option. Jay expressed concern that boat shoes do not provide enough support to the foot.

Laura suggested having Travis Roy come and speak at AMSA – speaks on overcoming adversity, however cost is quite high at $2500. Jay recommends that Laura forward information to Lisa Barooshian in guidance who is overseeing/arranging for speakers to come to AMSA.

Jay stated he held 4 parent/principal coffee sessions last year; 2 with lower school parents and 2 with upper school parents. They were very helpful in getting parent feedback on items like EdLine & student organization and in making improvements. School morale is high.

Marlborough Heritage Fair is coming up, but AMSA’s presentation board which is used at the fair is outdated and needs major overhaul and updates. Need to find someone to update this board.

New computer science teacher from Rochester Institute of Technology has background in filmmaking and will be working on a 5 minute video about AMSA.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.