

SCARLETT MIDDLE SCHOOL PTSO



Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2020 – 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Our Mission: To facilitate close cooperation among parents, teachers, and students in order to raise funds for a variety of enrichment opportunities and foster a strong learning community!

Welcome and Introductions

- **Attending:** Gerald Vazquez, Jaye Peterson, Nicky Geyer, Tara Campbell, Victoria Engling, John Franks, Jill Pritts, Melahat Canter, Mimoza Ramaxhiku, Sarah Russman, Heather Finnie, Kathy Owens, Stephanie Riegle, Wanda Perez, Beth Morgan, Kym Randall, Felicia Scott, Lindsey Wolfe, Isabel Foster, Amelia Wilkerson, Dr. Smith, Ms. Hillard.
- **Approve September meeting minutes:** Mr. Vazquez motioned to approve September's meeting minutes, Nicky Geyer seconded, and all approved.

Principal's Report - Mr. Vazquez and Dr. Peterson

- A reminder to parents that grades will be in Schoology this term. At the end of the term, final grades will be in PowerSchool.
- There will be two virtual conference nights - Wednesday, October 21st from 4-7 and Wednesday, November 11th from 4-7. Teachers will reach out to parents and guardians of students who are really struggling. Then they will open it up to the entire school so that families can start making connections with the teachers.
- By law, Scarlett must participate in NWEA testing. For two days in October, students will be testing online, from home during one of their blocks. Students will test in individual breakout rooms to limit distractions. The teacher and Dr. Peterson will monitor the testing to make sure that it's working. Students will need to be checked on during this time by adults or older siblings in the home.
- Mr. V and Dr. P met with the student council and gave them permission to continue the Socktober campaign. If enough is sold, the students council are able to support clean water in a village overseas. They are also able to donate socks to a local homeless shelter. The student council would also like to gather non-perishable items to deliver to families in need. They also work with an organization to have perishable items delivered to families for holiday meals.
- Dr. P will be sending out a questionnaire to students about interest in after school activities.

Dr. Smith and Ms. Hillard: Tips on coping with virtual learning and Covid

- Guest Speakers, Dr. Smith and Ms. Hillard, shared a presentation and discussed parenting during Covid-19. There are many parent and student stressors during this time. For students, some are:
 - Managing virtual school
 - Unknown expectations
 - Grief/loss
 - Limited social connections/interactions
 - Family financial stress
 - Anxiety/mood changes
 - Limited exercise or outdoor exposure
- For parents and guardians:
 - Managing home and work
 - New role of parent teacher
 - Anxiety
 - Mood changes
 - Relationship conflict and challenges
 - Feelings of burden and guilt over student's education
- **Acknowledge that what you are feeling is real and how you're dealing with it is okay.**
- Tips for helping your student with their stress:
 - Engage with your child - check in and find time to be present.
 - Praise effort - keep expectations for online work completion appropriate.
 - Ensure balance - have play and exercise in addition to school work.
 - Break down lessons - break apart assignments so that it does not feel overwhelming to tackle.
 - Plan ahead for new experiences - prepare ahead of time and get info about sports, groups and academics to help ease anxiety.
 - Keep a schedule and celebrate - ensure confidence and structure by making a schedule, recognizing accomplishments, and celebrating small victories.
- **Take care of yourselves so that you can take care of your students.** Step back and try to manage your own expectations of what is possible. Focus on what you can control and focus on what matters. Seek support when you need it. Find small ways to find joy and be gentle with yourself.
- AAPS has created a parent support group opportunity. They meet twice a month for drop-in support groups and the first meeting is October 13th.

President's Report – Nicky Geyer

- The PTSO's focus this year is going to be less about fundraising and more about

supporting each other. In what ways can we help our community? One idea is a food drive for the holidays, or a gift card drive. The school could then decide how it gets distributed.

- Planning to send out a parent survey on how the PTO can help support families, and what kind of PTO events can we still plan for?
 - Focus on online activities.
 - Online auction? We still have Disney tickets to auction
 - Send an email to Nicky if you'd like to help with this. Tara can help create a google form.
- Nicky would like to translate the Monday message each week. Wanda Perez volunteered to help translate into Spanish.
- We sold about \$1500 in Spiritwear. Would like to update the website with the current inventory.
- We'd still like to continue the Pizza Kit fundraiser this year.
- We received a \$100 prize from the PTOC.

Treasurer's Report - John Franks and Mimoza Ramaxhiku

- The September income was \$2,669.12 and we spent around \$115.00.

PTOC Update - Jill Pritts

- There was a large turnout at the first PTOC meeting. The next meeting will host the Board of Education candidates that will appear on the November ballot. PTOC meetings happen once a month and they are a good way to meet parents in other schools and to find out how other PTOs run.

Restaurant Nights - Heather Finnie

- Our first restaurant night at La Pina Loca raised \$160.00. Our next is at Wicked Mary's on Packard. 15% of sales will go back to the school.
- Heather is hoping to work with local businesses. Contact her if you know any Scarlett families who own businesses that might be interested in participating.
- Olga's on Washtenaw is set up for November 13th. Heather is also setting up a Restaurant Night with Curry On on Plymouth Rd. who will donate 25% of sales to Scarlett.

Game Night - Nicky Geyer

- John Franks is working on a potential virtual game night that could be a social activity for students. The goal is to help Scarlett students feel that they are still part of a community, and to find a way that won't leave anyone out. More info on that soon.

Open Discussion

- Please share any family recipes with Nicky that can be added to the Monday email.

Meeting Adjourned.**Looking Ahead:**

- The next PTSO meeting is on 11/09/2020.