

SCARLETT MIDDLE SCHOOL PTSO



Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2022 – 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 & Introductions (6:30-6:45 pm)
 - President 1 (1 year) - Senior president: Kathy Owens
 - President 2 (2 years) - Junior president: John Franks
 - Treasurer #1 (1 year): Tiffany Marra
 - Treasurer #2 (2 years): Amanda Beck
 - Secretary: Open
 - PTOC Representative: Harmony Hoekzema
 - Attendees in person introduced themselves. Some virtual attendees were set up to participate on zoom.
- President's report – (6:45- 6:55 pm)
 - Robert's Rules - [Cheat sheet](#)
 - KO (Kathy Owens) explains the value of Robert's Rules and indicates that this is the style of procedures that we will use in this PTSO forum.
 - Approve June meeting minutes
 - Minutes were reviewed. GV (Gerald Vazquez) moved to approve the minutes. TC (Tara Campbell) seconded. All were in favor. No abstentions. None were opposed.
- Treasurer's Report / Explain Budget - Tiffany Marra– (6:55- 7:05 pm)
 - TM (Tiffany Marra) indicated that our budget is in good shape.
 - KO explains that our financial practice and model is one that is fairly stringent about expenses. We always want to make sure we can fund the essentials. Explains that the Day of Awesomeness was especially helpful and impactful last year. It is our priority to especially fund school field trips as those come back on line this year.
 - GV shares that historically fundraising has been a challenge in the Scarlett community. And that past members of the PTSO/Admin have worked hard (many thanks to them) to find the right mix of fundraising activities that generate needed funds while being sensitive to the amount of work required of parents, staff and students. Also indicates that we've moved away from doing on-offs in terms of teacher requests. Goal is to benefit the greatest good and to focus on grade level benefits. We will continue to seek to prioritize building continuity and stability as a PTSO organization and in terms of our finances. Goal is also to NOT be constantly asking parents.
 - TM reiterates that the ROI for Day of Awesomeness is significant. \$500 fixed

- cost, and more than \$22,000 in raised funds.
 - GV again shares history that in the past there were many efforts and lots of work invested to together yield \$15,000. Day of Awesomeness changed that formula.
 - Day of Awesomeness was explained for new to Scarlett parents.
 - AL (Adelaide Lancaster) asked about “community building activities” line item on budget. Some potential suggestions were made, and it was
- Principal's report - Gerald Vazquez (7:05-7:15 pm)
 - GV: Gave great thanks to Dr Peterson and Ms Stevenson for their leadership at the start of this last school year. He echoed Dr Peterson’s sentiments of gratitude for Ms Stevenson joining the team as well. GV hopes that the start of the year has felt great for families and welcomes feedback with the intent to learn and grow if that has not been any family’s experience.
 - GV: Tomorrow (9/20) is the start of NWEA. NWEA is a snapshot of where we are collectively, and serves as just one indicator of a student's knowledge. Parents will receive many indicators from educators throughout the year. The tests are untimed by typically take between 45-60 minutes.
 - GV: Also hopes the open house was a good experience. Glad to have it in person again. Some changes were made to it’s typical structure due to proactive COVID mitigation strategies.
 - GV: Welcomes active engagement from parents. Reiterates that if ever parents do not feel that they are receiving an appropriate response to their concerns, they should copy/include the administrative team on communication. Assures parents that no teacher will be offended and that the administrative team can’t support teachers if they aren’t aware of any potential communication gaps. Reiterated that the Scarlett team does their very best to serve students and families and is eager to make the most of this academic year.
- PTOC Update(7:15-7:20 pm)- Harmony Hoekzema
 - HH: PTOC is a district wide body and has representatives from each independent building. First PTOC meeting is occurring concurrently with this meeting as this meeting is typically held the second week of the month and the PTOC meetings are typically the third week of the month.
 - Representatives serve on sub-committees and HH will be serving on the equity sub-committee.
 - All parents and community members are invited to attend those meetings.
 - More updates to come.
- Fundraisers (7:20-7:45 pm)
 - Day of Awesomeness
 - Online Options -
 - Grocery cards
 - Amazon Smile
 - Spirit Wear
 - Looking ahead:
 - Pizza kits
 - Carnival

- KO: Brief overview of named fundraisers. Unclear if we will do pizza kits of carnival this year. Pizza kits are typical in Jan.
- TC: As a parent with many older kids who have already gone thru Scarlett, she shared with the group just how much parent effort was required for both of these efforts.
- GV: Raised the importance of finding ways to build community and be together. Even if we lower the pressure to fundraise and complicate the event, the value of a community offering is important for our families. Acknowledged that we will need to be mindful of COVID concerns as we look for opportunities to be together. Emphasis on FUN raising, not FUND raising.
- KR (Kym Randall): Shared about an event sometimes held at Carpenter that was more about families being able to share food and culture - heritage nights.
- Others were enthusiastic about the potential of that at Scarlett, GV noted the connection to the IB focus.
- AL: Mentioned that Spiritwear sales have already been strong. Perhaps, we can continue to segment our FUN raising and FUND raising.
- GV: Mentioned a potential opportunity for middle school students to sell concessions at high school games - has been approached by high schools already. Will consider, find out more about commitments, and may take to the student council to see if there is reception.
- KH: Asked about yearbook.
- GV: Very strong product. People have been really enthusiastic about the outcome. Yes, parents do purchase copies of it. It is tied to the school portrait company we use.
- AL: Inquired about school portrait company. Noted that last year some students with darker skin tones experienced less than true results with the picture company.
- GV: It has already been addressed with the company and we are hoping for improvement in this year's pictures. There is no financial gain for the school to use any particular company. We will make a switch if needed to best serve students.
- TC: Inquired about first event of the year...is it NAAPID?
- KO & GV: Yes, it may be. Acknowledgement that a goal was an easy return for parents given challenges of just returning to school, COVID, and other PTSO leadership transitions.
- KH: Inquired about school dances.
- GV: Shared some history of past experiences, including a sock hop (echoed by TC). Also shared some history about some of the larger and more expensive class trips that have been taken in the past. While very fun, "it isn't a class trip if only 50% of the students attend." Reiterated goal of accessibility and encouraged that we can be creative about honoring and celebrating students in inclusive ways.

- Open Discussion / Q & A: (7:45-8:00pm)

- KO motions to adjourn at 7:44pm. TM seconds.

The next meeting is on 10/10/2022

In Person Attendees:

Erica Lamar (teacher)
Karen Hulsebus
Liz Gawel
Kym Randall
Shannon Considine-Dunn
Crystal Ball
Harmony Hoekzema
Tracey Stevenson (administrator)
Kathy Owens
Tiffany Marra
Garald Vazquez (administrator)
Tara Campbell
Sritlana Bazashkina

Zoom Attendees:

Victoria Engling
Tracey Stevenson
Amanda Beck
Kristen Fraser
Mandy Hall