

Scarlett Middle School PTSO
Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2023 – 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm, on Zoom

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!

Attendees: Kathy Owens, Gerald Vazquez, Karen Hulsebus, Adelaide Lancaster, Sarah Anton, Natalie Turner, Shannon Elyse Considine

- Welcome
 - Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm by Kathy Owens
- President's Report (Kathy Owens)
 - [Approval of January Meeting minutes](#) (Sarah A. motioned to approve, Adelaide L. seconded, all approve)
 - Conferences went well, some parents brought students, others didn't.
 - Kathy O. will be at a PTSO table on Wednesday, she and Tiffany Marra will sell spirit wear.
 - Adelaide L. will collect interest forms re: what spirit wear items people want if we run out, to gather data.
- Treasurer's Report (Kathy Owens)
 - PTSO supported NAAPID today through the purchase of food.
 - STEP Afrika Buses are being covered through donations from UM-School of Ed, UM-Center for Educational Opportunities, private donations, and PTSO (we will cover the remainder).
 - 8th-grade Detroit Princess Riverboat cruise will also be partially covered by PTSO.
 - Potential funds that could be allocated are the 8th grade dance (\$2k) and 8th Grade Trip (\$2k).
 - We can't vote on it yet because we don't have a quorum with the board.
 - Comments from Gerald V:
 - Out of state and overnight trips aren't feasible. AAPS principals met and decided to eliminate more expensive trips for schools with a demographic of higher income families, to make things equitable. We want everyone to be able to attend, and historically only some students could.
 - There wasn't a class trip until the PTSO started contributing funds.
- Principal's Report (Gerald Vazquez)
 - NAAPID comments
 - It was a successful event! Everyone shared a meal, and had discussions about mental health, academics, etc.
 - Black student union did an excellent job helping with logistics during the event.
 - STEP Afrika updates

- Donations have come in- \$2300. The PTSO will help with the rest. Other donors covered the cost of tickets. Students won't need to pay anything!
 - Permission slips went home today.
 - o NWEA is completed, minus a few make ups.
 - o No updates on Family Fun Night.
 - o Construction issues: odors in the school due to drain back ups, Gerald V. is addressing it.
 - o Family Fun Night is next month.
 - o March fundraiser will be run by Gerald V. and Dr. Peterson, they are intentionally taking it on themselves.
 - Kathy O: let PTSO know if help is needed.
- Open Discussion items
 - o Natalie T: How are Title One funds used? How are inequity issues addressed? Money should not separate the experiences and resources kids across the district experience
 - Gerald V: Scarlett funds were used for literacy/math intervention teachers. Scarlett is the only secondary school in the district that has them.
 - We haven't used Title One funds for supplementary experiences. PTO Thrift Shop used to help with those, but they stopped providing it in recent years.
 - Adelaide L: Concern about enrichment opportunities equity. AAPS doesn't seem to have a standard on the necessity of enrichment, so it's hard to keep them accountable regarding equity among schools. PTOC is aiming to focus on equity, but their meetings coincide with our PTSO meetings, so it's unfortunate people cannot be a part of both.
 - o Adelaide L: American Sign Language is not offered at Huron High School, though it's offered at the other AAPS high schools. What are the implications for students taking ASL as their language at Scarlett?
 - Gerald V: staffing conversation is coming, but no solution yet. Different schools have different language offerings. He is hopeful there will be a class at Huron to cover continuing ASL.
 - Kathy O shared difficulties with her son doing ASL virtually. In person class is so much better.
 - Natalie T/Kathy O: ASL is beneficial in any career the students pursue, so finding a teacher for all high schools should be prioritized.
 - Adelaide L: this goes back to resources and equity. Are there ways families can advocate for it?
 - Gerald V: Doesn't have a response as of yet other than contact the assistant superintendent of curriculum, and wait for staffing conversations to happen.
 - Adelaide L: could be helpful to communicate with the ASL students to keep them informed.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm by Kathy Owens