

Scarlett Middle School PTSO
Meeting Minutes
May 8, 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: Gerald Vazquez, Dr. Jaye Peterson, Adelaide Lancaster, Karen Hulsebus, Vicki Engling, Sarah Anton, Stephanie Canada, Jill Pritts

- Welcome
 - Kathy Owens (president) and Tiffany Marra (treasurer) are absent
 - Adelaide is overseeing the meeting and hosting the Zoom call
- General Report (Adelaide Lancaster facilitating)
 - GV- we have about 150 kids signed up for the 8th grade river cruise event
 - PTO Thrift Shop made a \$4,681.75 donation to our PTSO. Kathy Owens suggests using PTSO funds to help cover the \$15,000 cost of the river cruise
 - GV- the inequity between middle schools is apparent regarding which Ann Arbor schools can have 8th grade end of year events, and how lavish
 - GV- we'd like more students to attend
 - PTOC is allotting funds to contribute to equity to Scarlett
 - PTOC Equity committee is cognizant of Scarlett's need
 - SA- families from Scarlett could help raise awareness of our need (lack of equity, a lot of lower income families compared to other middle schools) by voicing our need to the PTOC
 - SA- the PTOC is not seeing Scarlett's needs, voices are loud from other schools who don't see the inequity
 - GV- we aren't looking for a handout from the PTOC
 - SA- we are hoping for conversation about systemic issues
 - GV- schools are being pitted against each other re: scheduling 8th grade trips
 - Dr. JP- inequities were even greater pre-covid re: 8th grade trips. She met with other assistant principals to choose equal options among schools
 - Dr. JP- new principals at Clague and Tappan are getting pressure from PTOs/families who are pushing for more extravagant 8th grade trips like they've done in the past
 - Dr. JP- we have made big strides compared to the pre-covid era of much more inequitable trips
 - SA- are kids aware of scholarships?
 - GV- we can get a sense of who is in need
 - GV- we are \$3k away from covering river cruise cost
 - GV- ten years ago, the 8th grade trip was a powerfully uniting event
 - GV- we could connect with the remaining 50 students and suggest providing a scholarship as incentive for signing up
 - Jill P- are we at risk to cancel the event? GV- no
 - Jill P- should we buy dresses to fill a closet with options for kids to wear to fancy events
 - GV- let's get a sense of the need before we become a dumping grounds for too many items
 - KH- can we mobilize families better who have the financial means to contribute to

others? This can be covering costs of items/events, or donating time or other resources. Worth having a conversation with faculty involved in that

- o SA- lots of good conversation about how to make positive changes for next year, let's continue this
 - o AL- should we have junior roles in place on the board to get people in the mix in a less intimidating way?
 - o AL- more in person meetings would be helpful
 - o GV- agrees re: in person meetings
 - o KH agrees re: in person meetings. KH hasn't even met everyone on the PTSO board in person yet. Community is helpful.
 - o Dr JP- exec positions with 2 year terms could be offset so there isn't major turnover every two years (note: the term limits are only one year)
 - o SC- For those with kids in 8th grade and 5th grade, there wasn't the ability to meet other parents due to the timing of covid. Can there be an orientation for new Scarlett parents? It could get people interested in being involved and sharing ideas, and build community
 - o Dr JP- maybe we could go back to having a back to school event
 - o GV- advocates for in person PTSO meetings next year. It's easier to develop connections and friendships
 - o Dr JP- having times to facilitate "hot topic" conversations
 - o GV motions to use funds to cover the approximately \$2,900 remainder of the dinner/dance cruise, with the intention to communicate with students who aren't signed up that a scholarship is available
 - o JillP seconds, all vote in approval
 - o VE- has been updating the PTSO website, let her know of any feedback
- Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm by Gerald Vazquez