

# SCARLETT MIDDLE SCHOOL PTSO



## Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2021 – 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, Heather Hooppaw, Nicky Geyer, Victoria Engling, John Franks, Jill Pritts, Melahat Canter, Stephanie Gayle Riegle, Mimoza Ramaxhiku, Sarah Martin, Sarah Russman, Kathy Owens.
- Reminder to type name and email into the Zoom chat for our records.
- **Approve February meeting minutes:** Mimoza motioned to approve February's meeting minutes, Jill seconded, and all approved.

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

- This Wednesday is the board meeting in which schools will receive more information about the return to hybrid for secondary education. They have been heartened by the emails from parents who are not sure whether they should send their kids to school or not.
- They are positive that the teachers who have elected to be vaccinated will be vaccinated by the end of the month. During in-person school, there will be some rapid testing available at school.
- A parent asked if current 6th graders will get a chance to have an orientation since they have not been in the school yet. Dr. Peterson said that there will be orientations for students starting in the Spring, and for all those starting in-person for the first time next Fall.
- Staff and Faculty met on Zoom, but in the building, for the first time on Wednesday.
- When returning to school, they will try to keep families in the same cohort if their last names don't all match up. They are working with feeder schools to make this easier for families.
- Dr. Peterson said that during CCA, students have already been learning about the changes that will occur at school when they return. That way, they will already be prepared and know their expectations.
- The State of Michigan has applied for a waiver for the Spring PSAT tested and MSTEP testing. The US Department of Education would need to

approve the waiver. If this happens, students would only be taking the NWEA, which is only a measure of growth, not a high pressure test.

### **President's Report – Nicky Geyer**

- **8th Grade Recognition**
  - The PTSO plans to wait and see what transpires before planning an event.
  - Mimoza will look at the Dine to Donate account to see what amount is available to spend on the 8th graders.
  - Mr. Vazquez agrees that it is wise to wait.
- **Spirit Wear**
  - The PTSO is planning to have a sale to sell items that we already have in stock. Nicky motioned to do a 20% Off Sale on Spirit Wear. Jill seconded. All approved.
- **School Masks**
  - Nicky looked into the cost of getting all the students a decent mask. It would cost the PTSO about \$3,000. Nicky believes it is too much to spend. Also, all of the masks would look the same, which could be dangerous if masks get mixed up at school.
  - Jill noted that it would be nice to have a supply for students who need them. Dr. Peterson said that they can survey families to find out their needs. Mr. Vazquez added that they have \$180 in gift cards that could be used for this purpose. Jill said that she would look for some masks on sale.
- **Next Year's Board Elections**
  - It's time to start planning for next year's PTSO Board.
  - Jill asked if we could send out a bilingual email to recruit more families.

### **Treasurer's Report - Mimoza Ramaxhiku and John Franks**

- The February monthly summary is as follows:
  - The ending Savings Balance was \$10,777.41.
  - The ending Checking Balance was \$25,958.37.
  - The CD Balance was \$6,047.36.

### **Restaurant Nights**

- Our next Restaurant Night will be Friday all day at Antonio's Coney Island.

### **PTOC Report - Jill Pritts**

- The PTOC is made up of representatives from all the PTOs. They also

have an executive leadership board.

- At the last meeting, AAPS gave their definition of equity during a slideshow: “Equity is the moral responsibility of each member of our learning community to take the intentional actions necessary to create a learning community free of barriers, biases, and disproportionality for each and every person regardless of personal characteristics and social circumstances.”
- Jill got the impression that the Equity Team was genuinely interested in speaking with each school PTOC Representative and getting ideas, and that more people on a whole are willing to listen now.
- Some of the feedback during the meeting was to bring down the language on the District Equity Plan Pillar descriptions. The Pillars, according to the slideshow, are:
  1. Perpetuating Systems of Equity & Opportunity: Align district policies, regulations, practices, and resource allocation to our moral responsibility of ensuring equity in our organization.
  2. Courageous, Equity-Centered Leadership: Demonstrate bold and courageous actions necessary to remove inequities within our system to create a learning and work environment that is safe, welcoming, free of barriers, biases, and disproportionality.
  3. Systemic Transformation of Culture: Cultivate an organizational mindset in which equity is embodied within all programming, staffing, and curriculum necessary to support the core values of our system.
  4. Equity-Centered School, Classroom, and Organizational Practices: Identify and implement evidence-based strategies and practices to build capacity of the learning community to remove all barriers that impede student learning and ensure all students are engaged, valued, and supported.
  5. Family and Community Empowerment: Empower families and cultivate partnerships to have agency within our system that is consistent with a culture of equity.”
- Jill asked if Scarlett should create our own definition of Equity, with our own views of what equity should look like. Jill made a motion to create a definition. Mr. Vazquez approved.
- Mr. Vazquez appreciated that the PTOC is moving forward with this.
- John noted that only a few Ann Arbor schools are fighting for equity and need to spread awareness.
- Stephanie asked if they discussed inclusion. Jill noted that they may be missing the mark. The language they use does not feel accessible to everyone.

- Nicky said that Scarlett makes a point to make school more equitable by making field trips available to all, and the Equity Team could learn from that. It would be good to show them that there is value in having a diverse community like we do. She agrees that we can define equity from Scarlett's point of view and find a way to show AAPS and the Equity Team.
- Mr. V added that both the Scarlett Student Council and the Black Student Union intentionally engage in discussions about equity and could possibly be involved.
- The PTSO asked other questions that could be brought to the PTOC, such as:
  - How can we make the Scarlett PTSO more accessible? Would different meeting times and different meeting days help?
  - Should the PTSO exist when it's always a small handful of parents or guardians doing all the work?

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:58pm.**

**Looking Ahead:**

- The next meeting is on 04/12/2021.