

# Scarlett Middle School PTSO



## Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2024 – 6:30pm, Scarlett Library and Zoom

### The purpose of this Organization shall be:

1. To promote the intellectual, physical, and emotional health of Scarlett students in the school and community at large.
2. To provide forums and opportunities for communication and cooperation among parents, teachers, school building administration, school district administration and the community at large.
3. To engage in fundraising activities, to generate funds, to offer/provide for diverse and educational enrichment support/programs for students and staff.

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### **Attendance:**

In person: Karen Hulsebus, Gerald Vazquez, Sarah Anton, Celia Williams, Vicki Engling, Kevin Jeffery, Jennifer Jensen, Ryan Quinn, Sam Quinn, Ashley Tellez, Javier Tellez, Courtney Medina, Marta Rosa de Sausa, Shannon Dunn, Jenn Hudgins, Jeff Maier, Megan Wright-Jones, Kristen Ochomogo, Lily Sacks-Hubbard, Andrea Nance, Jeannie Ortiz, Natalie Turner, Faybia Stephenson Beuford, Nicole Fregene, Erika Washburn, Laura Morning, Leslie Baugh, Tara Campbell, Kimmerka Pipkins, Student Council members Abby, Ryan, Poppy. On Zoom: Kinda Hunter, Jaye Peterson

Meeting to order at 6:38pm

Introduction of people in attendance parents and Executive Board

### Welcome and President's Report - Karen Hulsebus (President)

#### **Karen Hulsebus calls meeting to order 6:38 pm**

- o Approval of [May minutes](#) motion by Gerald V, second by Kevin J. All were in favor.
- o 6th grade orientation debrief- event went well, were able to meet many new Scarlett families, Spirit wear sales were good
- o Chromebook distribution volunteers- it went well, the volunteer sign up sheet was full
- o Scarlett copier use- Karen will follow up with Ms. Gibson

- PTSO closet- will ask for volunteers to organize
- Open Executive board positions- Treasurer 2 and Recording Secretary
- Open appointed positions- Fundraising chair

### **Principal Report: Mr Vazquez 6:57 pm**

Welcomes parents to the school, the hope is that the continued support for the community continues. NWEA testing (Michigan's standardized test) started today for language and literature. Math will be in the future.

### **Treasurer's Report: Sarah Anton 7:02 pm**

- 24-25 Budget and finance updates- Sarah presented the budget that the Exec board discussed in the August Exec meeting, We have an excess of money in the account. It's not appropriate to keep such a high amount unused, plus we want to utilize the funding to enrich the current students. There are plans for a spend down. This includes making available funds for teachers, accessible by a proposed teacher grant process. Teachers may request funds from the PTSO through this process which involves meeting a specific criteria. Funding is only available for things that are not covered by the district at a normal capacity. \$10,000 is allocated for this year's teacher grant fund. There is a Google form available for the teachers to fill out and submit.
- 24-25 Budget approval

### **Vote on budget 7:28 pm**

Motion to approve budget by Leslie Baugh, seconded by parent (name?). The motion passes, None opposed.

### **Teacher Appreciation: Celia Williams**

Celia will continue to help with teacher appreciation. The budget has been modified to allot more funding for this year.

### **PTOC Report: Celia Williams**

Celia explained the PTOC and its purpose. No meeting this school year yet. Meetings are every 3rd Monday of the month, 7-8:30 via Zoom. All meetings are open to the public. PTSO is looking for a new person to take the role, as Celia will not be in the role next year.

### **Student Council update - Leslie Baugh, Laura Morning, and students**

Students presented: 8th graders Abby, Ryan, and Poppy. They shared about upcoming events- Spirit Week leading up to Friday Family Fun Night (space/alien theme) on Nov 22, Socktober fundraiser, \$1 to wear pajamas to school fundraiser, Student Council elections. They have new StuCo t-shirts.

### This year done already.

Welcome back event- StuCo members gave tours to incoming students, some attended Mitchell popsicles on campus

Leslie Baugh noted there is an instagram account. Acknowledges that students are likely not able/allowed to have accounts but assures that for whoever follows, it is all age appropriate, positive content. Account to follow is @scareltt nation\_ (make sure to include the underscore)

### **Open Discussion / Q&A 7:44 pm**

The main topic was the 8th grade end-of-year event. Let it be noted that Gerald V had to leave early, and Dr. Peterson was on Zoom, so there wasn't an opportunity for admin to respond to questions and concerns as of yet.

A lot of parents chimed in the discussion about the past 8th grade trips, and had thoughts about this year's. There was a question about sign ups being low at first for last year's event, and the circumstances for that. Parents were able to shed light on what their students and their peers were saying. The common consensus was that, despite students enjoying the event once it happened, there wasn't as much excitement from the students when the event was disclosed, especially after hearing what the other AAPS middle schools do for their trips. It is a potential equity issue, plus there are constraints re: type of event/trip put in place by the district. Trend seems to be that other schools hold more lavish events or longer (multi day) trips. Last year Scarlett hosted an event on the Detroit Princess Cruise during the school day that included a meal and a dance. Students were welcome to dress however they like, as to not discourage those who are unable to obtain formal/fancy clothing. At least 80% of 8th graders attended, which is a success. Admin has stated in the past that having most students attend an event is the highest priority, and says other types of events/trips will likely lower that number.

Since that may be because they are not all able to afford a bigger event/trip, we discussed using our excess of PTSO funding and potential other sources to support costs for students. This may allow for students to attend an event/trip longer than a school day excursion. Parents asked what other schools are doing this year, and what the plan is for Scarlett this year. We do not know if final decisions are made yet.

Parents were very passionate about finding ways to offer the same level of an experience to Scarlett as other schools have. There wasn't time to get to all the questions and comments. Lily Sacks-Hubbard suggested a committee for parents who want to offer help in brainstorming, discussing, and thinking about logistics for this year's 8th grade trip. Karen H said she would look into next steps for making sure parents feel heard and can help if possible.

Karen H mentioned that this year's 8th graders dealt with their "Day of Awesomeness" being canceled in 6th grade, and their one field trip being canceled in 7th grade, so it feels especially important to make sure their end-of-year experience is something they're excited about, since they've missed out on other experiences. Parents of those students have been donating money

to the past couple years of fundraisers, and that money should be used to enrich their own students' experience. It feels unfair and uncomfortable to be asked to donate and not have those donations used.

Someone asked who proposes options for and makes the final decision about the event/trip. Gerald V had to leave the meeting early and could not speak on this, but Karen H thinks Gerald/Dr. Jaye Peterson make the final decision.

In post-meeting discussion, Celia W and Natalie T brought up a compromise by doing two events: the Detroit Princess Cruise during the school day like last year, and also a day trip like Cedar Point on another date. This would mean we'd still get a large percentage of students able to attend at least one event, while still offering something that felt like more of a trip.

**8:05 pm meeting adjourned.**

**Executive Board:** President: Karen Hulsebus, Vice President: Kevin Jeffery, Treasurer #1: Sarah Anton, Treasurer #2: open, Corresponding Secretary: Vicki Engling, Recording Secretary: open, PTOC Representative: Celia Williams

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#### **ADDENDUM:**

Via email, Kelly Pfeiffer offered to fill the Treasurer 2 position, and Natalie Turner offered to fill the Corresponding Secretary position. The Executive board voted over email, as is permitted by our bylaws, and it was unanimously in favor in both cases.