

Scarlett Middle School PTSO



Meeting Minutes

Sept 11, 2023 – 6:30 PM, @ Scarlett Library

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:

(Officers) *Kathy Owens, Karen Hulsebus, Tiffany Marra, Adelaide Lancaster, Vicki Engling, Gerald Vazquez, Jaye Peterson*

(Members) *Kristen Fraser, Kinda Hunter, Rachel Brichta, Shannon Considine, Nicole Fregene (and daughter), Leslie Evans, Mashod Evans.*

- Welcome
 - Meeting called to order at 6:37 by Kathy Owens
 - Intros of board members, intros of attendees. Dr. P is starting her 21st year at Scarlett Middle School.
- President's Report (Kathy Owens)
 - Approve [meeting minutes from June 2023 meeting](#). Vicki motions to approve, Mr V seconds, all vote in favor.
 - Acknowledgement of Robert's Rules as governing process. [Shows cheat sheet as an available resource.](#)
- Treasurer's Report (Tiffany Marra)
 - Proposed Budget for 23-24 is provided. Time given for review. Structure of budget is simplified due to work done over the summer to reduce unused line items and consolidate categories.
 - TM shares that we've already received a donation from PTO Thrift. It is larger than we've seen in the last couple years. Disbursement is typically quarterly. Shannon Considine shares that at PTOC Treasurer Training a couple weeks ago the PTO Thrift representative shared that they are experiencing pre-pandemic levels of shopping again and expects contributions to restore to previous levels.
 - TM shares a new line item of 'Community Care.' This will broaden support for Scarlett families outside of previous holiday season specific giving and be allocated as needed and in collaboration with the counseling staff.

Discussion

- Spiritwear expense (\$1000) will be for replenishing sizes. Acknowledgement that kids are liking their clothing in larger sizes and so Adult L is now extra in demand.
- Mr V reiterates the importance of families filling out the household form. A specific email will be sent soon to boost responses. Just over 350 have been received so far. Need every family to participate.
- Significant discussion about teacher grant amounts. Question asked about best practices at other middle schools. Distinctions made between elementary school processes (set amount per teacher) and middle school reality - there are many, many more staff members. Mr V shares some history around teacher grants.

Expresses that there are several ways to have needs met including curriculum budget, title 1 budget, and department budget. Mr V also expresses a desire for teachers to come to meetings to make requests, and shares that in general the funds from the PTSO need to serve a goodly number for the student body - not just one classroom for example. Preference is for whole school impact or grade level impact. Tend to shy away from grants that only benefit a handful of kids. Historically some of these grants were used for field trips or experiences, but the cost of transportation has skyrocketed making many past experiences cost prohibitive.

- Kristen Fraser encourages us to make sure teachers are aware of what's available.
- TM encourages us to come up with guidelines, values, and priority funding areas that align with school goals and needs.
- Adelaide Lancaster asks about teacher wish lists and donor's choose campaigns. Example of yearbook cameras last year. How do these align? What is the PTSO's role in amplifying these? Acknowledgement of past PTOC efforts to aggregate these into one document. That person is no longer in their role. Is this helpful? Should it live at the building level?
- o Mr V reiterates the importance of families filling out the household form. A specific email will be sent soon to boost responses. Just over 350 have been received so far. Need every family to participate.

→ Dr P motions to approve the budget, Karen seconds. All in favor.

- Principals' Report (Gerald Vazquez and Dr. Jaye Peterson)
 - o Very positive start to the year overall!
 - o No major construction this year, which has made for a smoother start.
 - Construction not totally done but outstanding items (Floors, painting, doors) are not as disruptive and may be 3rd shift projects, 11pm - 7am
 - No new AC in library, cafeteria, office complex, and PLTW rooms - has still been more uncomfortable in these spaces.
 - New roof with 456 solar panels, becoming greener. New floors to be installed are recycled materials and need less harsh chemicals to be cleaned.
 - o Scarlett is up in enrollment, and this trend will continue especially as new Mitchell is built. We are projected to have maybe an extra 50-100 kids.
 - Question about factors driving growth. A: Reputation is growing. We are pulling from Ypsi. Also several of our feeder elementary schools are growing.
 - o Open House on Thursday! Come meet your children's teachers and learn about the curriculum.
 - o Early release day in Sept - early release time has pushed back a little to 12:15
- No PTOC Update, dates of upcoming meetings are on the agenda.
- Library Furniture request is shared and enumerated. Discussion revisits purpose and scope of teacher grants, and ultimately vision for the library. Mr V and Dr P indicate the improvements already made and what may be provided at a TBD year. Shared that adjustments in construction and the bond had to be made when the costs of everything increased so dramatically. Issue is tabled to confirm: what is permissible, what may be

possible with Steelcase Foundation ask, and perhaps a dedicated use of a student's memorial fund. Mr V and TM will connect with the librarian, Ms Schreck.

- Fundraising Updates (Karen Hulsebus, Stephanie Canada)
 - Karen Hulsebus - updates on resurrecting the Little Caesars pizza kit fundraiser. Will pursue an all online strategy. Targeted timing will be January before the superbowl. Dr P says in the past delivery was planned for the week before the super bowl and there was a tight two week fundraising window. KH indicates that this can be a dedicated 8th grade trip fundraiser.
 - Mr V - gives a history of POP fundraising relationship, and an update on POP relationship. COmmittments made by CEO to make up for the SNAFU at the end of lat year (vendor was a no show for Day of Awesomeness). There will be a fall treat for students. There was an additional 15% of the total raised last year given as an apology. And a commitment that for this year an extra 10% raised will come back
 - Stephanie Canada shares she is working on a fundraising night at BIG for families and a Parent's Night Out.
- Open Discussion
 - Shannon Considine offers support to all those working on 8th grade end of year experience. Can we help families prepare sooner? Dr. P says we are well ahead of where we were last year and plans are in place. Offer noted!
 - Question re backup of RAHS health clinic, especially for sports players. Dr. P: It takes time at the beginning of the year. Communication bw RAHS and coaches is happening.
 - Question re length of lunch lines. Dr P: many more kids taking advantage of lunch now that it is free for everyone across the state. This is true around the district. Also most true with 6th graders because people are getting used to the system. Things that help most are 6th graders memorizing their 6 digit ID so it doesnt need to be looked up, and learning what counts as free lunch vs snacks that you can pay for. Also there are two new Chartwell's employees. It will improve. Admin is also looking for ways to reorg/ improve flow for all grades.
 - Question about whether kids can eat snacks at school and if there is a consistent policy. Dr P says it varies. Some places like the library and gym and music have a no food policy at the building level. Some teachers may be managing allergy concerns and set a classroom policy based on that. Because of late lunch for 8th graders, the admin and teachers are encouraging snacks during the 3rd hour for them. Where kids are able to eat in class the request is that it is quiet, clean, and healthy. All after school activities and sports have snacks available. If a child is having difficulty finding a time for a snack in their schedule, please see Dr. P.

Kathy calls adjournment at 8:06.