



Prospect PTSA, January 16 - Meeting Notes

1 message

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So What Did I Miss?

January Prospect PTSA Meeting Notes

We had a great meeting with a good turn out. Our goal to Build our Pride through more parent and student participation is working and we had some great discussions and learned about some great resources at our school.

Highlights:

1. Question asked? Some teachers post grades really late, how do I find out how my student is doing when this is happening? Principal Hanson laid out parents rights and the proper process to handle this situation: Contractual obligation for teachers is to post a grade update every 6 weeks, however, it is a parent right to ask for an update on grades, or ask for a "Friday card" for their student. If you are experiencing a problem with not seeing grades in a timely manner first email the teacher and/or before involving administration. Email expectation for response from staff is 48 hours (except weekends). This enables the teacher to respond directly first, if you do not receive a reply then you can contact any of the administration to help: Principal, Vice Principal or Assistant Principals. They are all available and willing to help resolve this issue.

2. Starting in February - Principal Hanson will make herself available on

PTSA Meeting Nights from 6 - 6:30pm for parents to come in and ask her questions about the school and discuss any concerns they may have.

This a very generous offer and I hope that parents take advantage of this!

3. **Book Club for parents starting shortly.** Lisa Palumbo to head. See below and more details to come.

4. **Do you ever wonder what you kids are doing on campus?** One of our retired teachers, Ron Garcia, takes photos of many of the student activities and shares them with all who are interested. His goal is to boost our Panther Pride, just like PTSA. ;-) **To see what you student and their friends are up to go to: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/phspanthers/albums>** The photos are available for you to see and download. This is a great resource and is well organized.

To see what else happened check out our:

Unofficial Meeting Notes

Notes from PTSA General Association Meeting

January 16, 2018

In attendance: Cathie Watson-Short, Jen Loftus, Cyndi Varich, Thomas Swidler, Joell Hanson, Nancy Pherigo, Lorie Laird, Janet Chance, Crystal Kurotori, Anita Guerra, Janice Bate, Nidhi Shinde, Vrunda Dongre, Julie Schaer, Lisa Palumbo, Cristene Miller

Meeting called to order in PHS Staff Room at 6:36pm by Cathie Watson-Short.

1. Welcome! – Cathie. Introductions all around.
2. Approval of minutes from 12/14/17: Joell motions to approve, Nancy seconds, all approve, no corrections needed. **PASSED.**
3. **Financial reports** – Thomas Swidler (Treasurer) – 5 minutes

Account activity (since 11/14/2017):

- Income \$4,997.84
 - Holiday Gift Donations \$4,416.00
 - New Membership \$200
 - Company match \$200
 - Script \$181.84

- Expense \$4,752.97
 - Several bank fees \$152.49
 - Holiday Gifts for staff \$4,752.97
- Account balance \$17,056.93

Comments:

- The PTSA used \$489.46 of its own funds to cover some of the holiday gift expenses including bank fees. Also this was not a budgeted item the amount was covered by this year's savings of \$500 in teacher mini grants.
- Last year we received about \$3,400 in company matches but this year we only received \$200. We need to investigate why that is and get the message out that PTSA members can get their companies to match their donations. Will send a note to all donors reminding them to submit their requests for company matches.

Presentation of bills:

- No current outstanding bills to present.

We need an auditor to audit Thomas – a parent volunteer. Cristene will explore one idea for a parent volunteer she knows.

4. **Report of the executive board** – 3 minutes – PTSA President, Cathie
 - a. We will start using Ron Garcia's photos to promote PTSA and Prospect events.
 - b. We have an interest in tying in our efforts to all the communities at Prospect and are still working on ways to execute this vision. (If you can help us include more parents from different groups on campus - we would love it!)
 - c. Shveta Bagade was voted in as our new Latimer rep at the last executive board meeting.

5. **Principal report** – 5 minutes
 - a. Joell is working on a flow chart to use to understand the relationship between parent groups and Prospect leadership.

- b. There is a school climate survey taken by parents, staff, and students once a year. The district tries to get sufficient participation across all the stakeholder groups to get a complete representation of the school community. Results will be out this spring and will be shared with the parent community through PTSA.

6. Reports of the committees

- a. **Grad Night Update** – Janet Chance – 3 minutes. Selling Prospect socks \$10 each. Still doing flocking and Scrip as fundraisers as well. Still accepting ticket purchases for grad night – price goes up at the end of this month.
- b. **Book club for parents** – Lisa – Is there interest among parents? Consensus is yes. Lisa would lead it, hold it at school. Book is called Spark. Meet Feb-Mar-Apr. Advertise to parents.
- c. **Hospitality Update** - AP Info Night – Julie 3-5 minutes. We provide dinner for the teachers who volunteer for the AP info night tomorrow (Wed. 1/16). There is a nice selection of food, could use a few more food donations. Served at 5pm. \$130 budget from HSC to supplement.
- d. **Panther Paws Update** – Cyndi & Cristene – 5 minutes. Tri-tip fundraiser Mar 3 or 10 – a takeout meal. Soccer karaoke during lunch Feb. 9 as fundraiser.
- e. **Teacher Holiday Gifts Recap** – Cristene & Cyndi – 3 minutes. It was awesome, everyone liked it. 120 gifts – one for every staff member. Tissue, wipes, gift card, handwritten notes.
- f. **Parent Ed Update** – Anita – 3 minutes. Goal was to do 3 in a year, one on wellness, one on college prep, one movie. Parenting took place in the fall, Sue Laramie this month for college prep talk, and last one is a movie – need a plan. (Discussion below)
- g. **College & Career Center Update** – Lorie Laird 3 minutes. The first district wide college fair was a success – it was at Westmont before the holidays. Next district-wide college fair is here at Prospect on Feb. 13. Interview etiquette workshop coming up in Feb. Career spotlight coming up – pediatrician. Suggestion was made by a parent for a social media etiquette class for future scholarship/college/job prospects.
- h. **Build our Pride** – ideas for 50th anniversary for next year. – 5 minutes (not covered) This will be moved to next month for full discussion with Sharon Salazar.

7. ASB Report and how do we get more student involvement at PTSA – Ambassador Program– Student – ASB – 10 Min (N/A – no rep at meeting)
Moved to next meeting.
8. **PTSA discussion of Spring Parent Ed Night movie choice** – movies considered: Hunting Ground (sexual assault on college campuses), Bully (pack of teens who conspire to murder a fellow student), and Beyond Measure (follow up movie to Race to Nowhere, looking at education innovation across the country) – Anita – 7 Min. Mar or Apr timeframe. Show Screenagers again? No decision made - let's review options and revisit next month. Another possibility is Project Happiness: Dalai Lama and Richard Gere. (Have ideas? Come next month and share them!)
9. PTSA discussion on how and if we can provide more homework support for student athletes trying to meet criteria to play and all struggling students. – Led by Cathie – 10 minutes (N/A – didn't discuss)
10. **Parent Questions and Concerns** – Here parents can bring up their questions, concerns or topics they would like to see PTSA address. - 10 Minutes
 - a. Parent – some teachers do not post grades regularly in Schoolloop. Principal Hanson: Contractual obligation for teachers is to post a grade update every 6 weeks. It is a parent right to ask for an update on grades, or ask for a “Friday card” for their student. Work with teacher and counselor first before involving administration. Email expectation for response from staff is 48 hours (except weekends).
 - b. ***Principal Hanson offers to come at 6pm before the next PTSA meeting for a “principal talk” for non-PTSA related concerns.
11. **Student Questions and Concerns** – Here students can bring up questions and concerns about Prospect. - 10 Minutes.
 - a. 9th grade student has concerns about the CPM textbook. Asking for parent feedback about it as well. She felt that the layout of textbooks is confusing, concepts are taught with student-led experience based learning rather than lecture or clear definition. Previous material is mixed in requiring students to remember over time. The administration is working with student to create a survey to understand from a broad student perspective what their experiences have been so far with the newly adopted text books. This is the first year of implementation.
12. New Business (none)

Adjournment

Prospect College and Career Center Written Update:

College & Career Center

Thank you, all, for your UC/CSU college enthusiasm at the end of November! Our seniors worked diligently to make the Thursday deadline. The CCC study hall saw over 40 seniors that week alone for application help which made the December 1st celebration all the sweeter! All UC and most CSU applications are complete. Thank you for the support of our first annual High Fives & Hot Chocolates. We served over 160 hot chocolates to seniors and hundreds more high fives!

Currently, we have 165 seniors with over 1770 active applications listed on Naviance to approximately 270 schools. We have 91 known acceptances to 55 schools - Arizona State University, Boise State Univ, Cal Maritime, Cal Poly SLO, Chapman Univ, Columbia College, Concordia University, Creighton Univ, CSU Stanislaus, DePaul Univ, Dominican University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Univ-Prescott, Evergreen State College, Hawaii Pacific Univ, Hofstra Univ, Humboldt State University, Loyola Marymount Univ, Marquette Univ, Miami Univ Oxford, New York Univ, Oregon Inst of Tech, Oregon State University, Pace Univ NYC, Pacific Union Coll, Pacific University, Portland State University, Purdue Univ, San Diego State Univ, San Francisco State Univ, SJSU, Southern Utah Univ, St Mary's College of CA, Tulane Univ, U of Arizona, U of CO Colorado Springs, U of Delaware, U of Idaho, University of Minnesota Twin City, University of Montana, University of Nevada Reno, U of North Dakota, University of Oregon, Univ of Portland, U of Puget Sound, U of Redlands, U of San Francisco, U of Texas Austin, University of the Pacific, U of Vermont, Washington State Univ, Western Oregon University, Whittier College and Willamette Univ.

Seniors are starting to report scholarship offers!! The Class of 2018's scholarship offer total is at **\$1, 233,200** so far.

Westmont hosted a District-wide College Fair November 30th for out of state colleges. There were over 300 students and parents in attendance with 25 schools representative available to meet with families and answer questions. The energy at the event was extremely positive and everyone is looking forward to **Prospect's College Fair in February**.



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You are likely a parent at Prospect High School and signed up for our list via a communication from us or by attending an event we put on.

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