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## April 3rd Prospect PTSA Meeting & Safety and Climate Meeting Notes

2 messages

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**Prospect High School PTSA** <phs.ptsa.membership@gmail.com>  
Reply-To: phs.ptsa.membership@gmail.com

Wed, Apr 4, 2018 at 5:16 PM

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## April 3rd, Prospect PTSA Meeting Notes

### PTSA General Association Meeting

April 3, 2018

#### In attendance: 11

1. Welcome! – Cathie
2. Approval of minutes – Cathie (no minutes to approve – will do at next meeting)
3. Financial reports – Thomas – 5 minutes (insert treasurer report when I get it)
  - a. 4 additional PTSA members added
  - b. Food for open house paid
  - c. Paid for Beyond Measure movie screening
  - d. Will spend approximately \$5,100 for the rest of the year
  - e. Have added about 10 PTSA members per year for the past 4 years

- f. Need a more aggressive company matching campaign because our company matching numbers are down from last year
4. Principal report – (Cathie speaking for Joell) – 5 minutes
    - a. WASC went well. Cathie was with a small team of parents at the reception. Some issues brought up by the Prospect team we can work on are: how to make the school more welcoming to parents, how to consolidate communication to families, how to get teachers to put grades in more regularly. McGowan suggests that the PTSA ask the union representatives to consider adding a timeline for grade updates in the teacher negotiation. McGowan agrees with the positive review of the WASC visit – he says they said it was the best report they'd ever seen, they enjoyed our school, all signs point to accreditation.
  5. Reports of the committees
    - ASB – Julie Son – ASB is working on a group appreciation effort right now. Will be doing some spring fun sports. International week. ASB is spearheading effort to add some PTSA ambassadors to the ASB organization. Need to work on how to find these students and make a plan for how to work with the PTSA. The suggested positions:
      - media specialist (social media, bulletins, relay info from PTSA)
      - homecoming liaison to work with PTSA on the dance effort
      - teacher appreciation gift liaison
      - 8<sup>th</sup> grade welcome at middle schools (include fall sports info)
    - Senior Scholarships Open – Cathie – there are forms in the office and online, easy process, we get very few applications, mostly girls. Committee reviews and decides. Each scholarship is \$500. Turn in at the school office. Add the scholarship to the video bulletin. Committee to review applications: Cathy, Lisa, Shveta, Nancy. Deadline April 20. Vote on final recommendations for scholarships at the May 8 PTSA meeting.
    - Student Math CPM Survey Results – Nidi (not in attendance) – McGowan reports that he is not having a good experience with the CPM materials when they are used as intended. He is teaching 3<sup>rd</sup> year math so it might be that more experience with common core/CPM beforehand will make the later grades more successful. Suggestions for what to do if you and/or your student are unhappy with CPM: complain to the school board every month at their meeting with anecdotal evidence that the curriculum is not working for your child if this is the case. Help figure out a way to get the teachers more support materials for teaching the curriculum. One idea would be an index of problems so you can find the same concepts

across all problems. McGowan will write a proposal for a TOSA position to create the materials to allow the materials to work better in the classroom – help him advocate for this help. Teachers are still creating their own materials. Ask the district for data on how the students are doing before and after the adoption of CPM. We should have a rep from PTSA at the CUHSD board meetings.

- Spark! - PTSA Book Club Update – Lisa – great first meeting, will send email with some of the discussion points of the first meeting. Come to the next meeting even if you didn't come to the first. Great parenting help for supporting your child's natural interests and talents. Next meeting April 24. Email Lisa if you want to come: [lpalumbo9@gmail.com](mailto:lpalumbo9@gmail.com)
  - Teacher Appreciation Lunch – Julie – Friday May 4. Potluck again. Teachers loved the food last year and are really tired of Togos. ;- ) Online signup coming soon for food and helpers.
  - Prospect Membership Drive for next year – Shveta – Will incorporate the logo and change up the materials. Mike Furlong will work with students to create a logo? Shveta will look into it.
  - Middle school outreach plans – Cathie – 3 minutes – Lisa called Moreland to ask about interest in having Prospect visit the school, and they were very interested. Work with parents and students to set something up. Shveta to talk to Latimer to see if they want us to come there or if they want to piggy back on MMS visit. Administration on board.
  - PTSA board members needed!!! – especially Treasurer. Advertise in the daily bulletin.
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- PTSA Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.

### **Parent Topic - School Safety**

Please note this was written to give you an idea of what happened at our meeting, but aren't highly edited. If you have more questions please reach out to [president@prospectPTSA.org](mailto:president@prospectPTSA.org). *If you are able to help make these communications clearer we would love your help, this is more of a low resource issue!*

In attendance: Cathie Watson-Short, Jen Loftus, Thomas Swidler, Anita Guerra, John McGowan, Lisa Palumbo, Julie Son, Shveta Bagade, Cathy Wolters, Pearl Okawachi, Nancy Pherigo, May Hsu, Cecilia Goh, Chuck Page, Sheila Juthani, Sangeetha Bharadwaj, Maria Bering, Stacey Brown

This Parent topic was set up based on these concerns from Prospect parents from last meeting:

1. Kids not feeling safe walking home to school
2. How can we ensure our kids feel safe on campus
3. Are Crossing Guards an option
4. More parent involvement needed
5. Interest in creating a parent and staff committee to address these issues

Cathie shared what has been done since the last meeting. She met with Mr. Arnett, our SJPD Resource Officer Rolando and spoke with Lt. Marc Lehmann from the Saratoga Sheriffs office. students involved with the 2 fighting incidents at the Car Wash and Chase bank have been disciplined with suspensions and expulsions. A lot of work has been done by our assistant principals and resource officers to disband the kids that have been involved in this activity. The Saratoga Sheriff's Office is increasing their patrols during after school time and would like you to call them if you see any unsafe activity happening in the city of Saratoga. Prospect sits in Saratoga as do McDonalds to the Car Wash.

Stacey Brown: Students walking home are the responsibility of the school until they are home. After the fight incidents, there were several consequences to the students in question including suspensions and expulsions. We have a complicated and thorough way of working with our students with disciplinary issues, and things are happening behind the scenes, often not noticeable to parents. Extended discussion of options for handling severe discipline issues, including school sites and continuing ed.

Parents concerned that the kids that needed to be in sports were getting kicked out due to grades. Parents feel that kids should still be able to take part in practice, but not games until grades go up as many of these kids need this connection to stay connected to school. District is actively working on a grading policy that allows faster recovery from F's. More details to come in the next couple of months.

Chuck Page, former Mayor of Saratoga and current member of Saratoga Safety Committee: sheriff in Saratoga is keeping an eye out. Neighborhood watch is an important tool. Police are coming around at the release time.

Recommended involving businesses in helping keep an eye out on the students. Rolando, SJPD liaison, is very involved and on top of it, connected to Saratoga PD. Having a Saratoga Sheriff Officer on school site after SJPD leaves it is at the discretion of the principal how they use their SRO's. If we

want the SRO to be at our school at the release time, maybe look into moving the hours? A conversation to have with administration. Mr. Arnett would be a good one to bring into the conversation.

Cathie: Jeff Arnett is in favor of parent presence for safety reasons in the neighborhoods around the school. If parents are able to be at McDonalds, or other nearby businesses or at the Saratoga Creek park with a presence this deters kids from acting out. If parents see something he asks that they take notes, not video tape. Video tape often goes viral and causes its own problems. Also, not looking for parents to get involved with poor behavior. Just report it.

Stacy: Last week Project Cornerstone recognized Prospect. Use your connection as an adult to reach out to the students.

Cathie: Would it help to hire a crossing guard? Stacy says the city of San Jose makes it very hard to get a crossing guard, particularly at a high school. Not really a need for the actual crossing guard help, but rather an adult or two to say hello and keep an eye for any potential bad behavior.

Chappie Jones office would be interested in helping parents advocate for more programs at Starbird community center – tutoring, etc.

Stacy suggests looking into programs after school by leveraging city partnerships with other organizations.

Bathroom concerns from parents in attendance: sex and drugs in the bathrooms, many students will not use the bathrooms during school hours, everyone knows about it so why isn't the administration doing more about it.

Thomas: Ingroup/outgroup feelings – the atmosphere at Prospect is not always welcoming. Not enough lunch tables, the student body sometimes feels judgmental, some girls are not comfortable here so go to Middle College.

Parent: Can we have a student survey to assess school safety issues?

Stacy: There is a climate survey that is given to students each year. Kim McCarthy is the teacher union president – you could ask her for information about how to do a survey.

Ask students for top 3 and bottom 3 things about Prospect.

Cathie: Is there interest in putting together a committee around school safety? Parents say yes. How to go about it? We need a small committed group to start, then add people by tapping friends and sharing with passion for the topic. We found a leader and will be sharing our first meeting time shortly.

Parent: How can we increase parent engagement? We need more folks at our meetings and being involved. Lisa brought up each of us need to ask people to come. Other ideas were: Have people "like" Facebook page before PTSA events? Or somehow add more social media aspects to communication. Try Twitter?

Next steps: form and start Parent Safety and School Climate committee. Stay tuned if you are interested in being a part of this.



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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.

**Our mailing address is:**

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