



Prospect High School Parent Teacher Student Association

Minutes from PTSA General Association Meeting

September 11, 2018

In attendance: 34

1. Welcome! – 1 Min – Cathie Watson Short
2. Approval of minutes from 8/14/18 – 2 Min –**PASSED**.
3. Financial reports (Xingli) – 2 Min
Balance on hand as of 09/10/2018: \$19360.73
 - Citibank: \$16885.52
 - Paypal: \$2475.21Account Activities
 - Incomes: total \$10730.92
 - Total Membership income: \$10555.00
 - Scrip income: 157.89
 - Amazon Smile: 18.03
 - Expenses: Total \$1569.77
 - Paypal fee: \$154.79
 - Website update to install SSH (secure shell): \$119.98 good for this year and next
 - Advertising: \$670 for 1000 custom printed fridge magnet, Panther Paw to share ½ cost
 - Check # 5024 \$500, issued last fiscal year for Educational Award didn't get deposited until 08/01/2018
 - Check # 5030 \$125 issued to buy Office Health supply
 - Issues
 - a. cmagnet.com/Proprint still trying to track down where our \$335 refund on invoice INVOICE # CMD18071330

* This report covers date from 07/26/2018 to 09/10/2018

4. Report of the executive board
 - PTSA President (Cathie Watson Short) – 5 Min
 1. Attended PTSA training this weekend. Found out it is necessary to have a Vice President – please consider it or think about any of your friends who might be willing. We also need someone to lead Communications.
 2. Vote in MMS liaison Sangeeta Banerjee and DCS liaison Lisa Derrington. Connie Fisher motions that we vote in Sangeeta and Lisa to these positions, Andrea Taylor seconds, all approve. **PASSED**.
 3. 50th anniversary events – events are on the website, please attend and tell all your friends.
 4. Future topics and open volunteer positions. Next month the parent topic is supporting your student in math.
 - Principal report (Paul Pinza) – 5 Min – Terrific start to the year.
 1. Report cards and then homecoming coming soon.
 2. 3 numbers: current enrollment at PHS is 1549 students, number of parents who signed in at back to school night was 748 (almost half the student



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body represented), and we have had 97% attendance since the start of the school year.

3. Met as staff over this past month and laid down instructional goals: 1) building community, and 2) resilience in the classroom (embrace struggle, embrace support in the school site, building confidence).
 4. Will do a practice fire drill tomorrow with fences in place to see how the process works now. Parent asks for a drill timing breakdown and comparison to see if there are any issues given the new barriers.
 5. Facilities changes: New tables and chairs will be placed between trees in the front of the school for additional seating. Two story classroom building is under final review and approval, construction should start soon and is planned to be finished 8 months from the beginning of construction. This building will have new maker space, classrooms, and an outdoor plaza. Working with design team for the new student union, work will begin next year. Plans can be reviewed online or at PHS.
 6. Question about whether or not the back gate will be locked: Community would like it left open to access the school site, Paul is working on this issue with the district.
 7. Communicate with Paul and also the school board if you have concerns.
- Student Report: Presidents of ASB in attendance from 3 grade levels.
 1. Homecoming week is approaching, preparing t-shirts and quad deck, powder puff routines
 2. Starting "Student of the month" program soon. Will ask teachers for recommendations starting with English teachers. One student from each grade will be selected.
 3. Trying to revamp PHS honor society, reward students who have a certain GPA or improve their GPA by a certain amount. Fundraising for this will be necessary, and ASB will first host a dinner for parents with student hosts, servers, and entertainers, probably in January. ASB students are asking parents for help with getting donations from local businesses. Contact Sharon Freeman or any rep to offer help or with questions.
 - Teacher Report (Sameen Schoenhair) – 3 Min – Increased enrollment means big classes, grading process is therefore slowed down. Teachers were queried and did not have any issues or requests - they are happy with current PTSA support. The teacher mini-grant application will be sent out soon.
5. Reports of the committees
- Membership Drive "Build the Pride!" – Shveta Bagade – 3 Min – Trying to reach a total of \$20K in order to maintain our operating budget.. Donate by paper or online, drop the check at the front office. Company matching – please submit your donation for matching because that will double your donation. Apple has a 2 for 1 matching donation until the end of the year. If you want to be entered into the drawing for 3 \$100 Target gift cards, you must have your donation in by this Friday 9/14.
 - School Safety & Climate Committee – Sheila Juthani – 3 Min – Met with Jeff Arnett and first goal of the year is to build community with the businesses in the area. Give decals to businesses that they can put in their window, and give them



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contact information and suggestions for how to handle various situations with students. Ask them to help us educate students about community minded behavior, and to keep open communication with us. This will also give us a database of community partners to work with. The committee is asking for parent volunteers to reach out to the local businesses once they have the final plan and document ready.

- Teacher Mini Grants – Jen Loftus – 3 Min – coming soon!
 - Student Class Offered (SAT Prep), Introduce new Student Program Coordinator– Cathie – 2 Min – SAT class is full, there will be another class in the spring.
 - CPM (Math) Committee – Donna Yuen – 3 Min – the committee’s plan is to collaboratively work with parents, students, and teachers to help support the students with using the new CPM curriculum. CPM is different from traditional math instruction. It is primarily group work with guided learning and discovery. Teachers are facilitators rather than lecturers. The committee is trying to find resources and tools to help the teachers support the students, and tools to help the students as well. Come to the School Site Council meeting Wed. Sept. 26 at 3:30pm if you are interested in getting involved.
 - Parent Ed - Anita Guerra – 2 Min – Oct 10th Tyler Durman, talk on “Bite Sized Wisdom,” will be held in the gym.
 - PTSA Book Club – Mind Set – Lisa Palumbo – 2 Min – Meetings on the first Monday of the month at the school library. Break the book into 3 sections. Meet at 7pm.
 - Community forum for board candidates for the CUHSD board – look for the date coming up.
 - Homecoming Decorating Committee – Lori Thomas – 2 Min – The dance is Sat. Oct. 6 at 7pm. Need volunteers to help with decorating. Do a photo backdrop, balloons, lights, etc. Contact Lori if interested.
 - College and Career Center – Lorie Laird – 3 Min – Amy Bencomo is college and career specialist as staff. She helps support the students regarding college and career plans and choices throughout high school. Contact her if you have any questions. Updates:
 1. Amy B and guidance counselors went to a UC Regents conference this week and will attend others throughout the year.
 2. College visits are happening at school every week, 5 this week, 7 next week, and more coming.
 3. CUHSD is hosting a college fair at Branham on Sept. 25
 4. STEM college fair at Santa Clara Convention Center on Oct. 7
 5. College application workshop for seniors after school on Sept. 21
 6. PSAT for sophomores and juniors on Oct. 10
 - Panther Paws & Office Staff – Cyndi Varich – 2 Min – Please support our tri-tip takeout fundraiser on Sat. Nov. 3. Also, come out and shop at our Dec. 8 holiday craft fair at PHS – all crafter spots are filled so there will a huge selection!
 - Grad night – If you have a senior, please come out to help. The next planning meeting is tomorrow night, Sept. 12, at 7pm in the staff room.
6. Unfinished Business – none
 7. New Business – none



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8. Adjournment – meeting adjourned by Cathie at 7:31pm

7:30 – 8:30 Parent Topic

Parent topic:
“How to Support Your Student’s Success”
7:30-8:30pm, Room 30

Principal, Paul Pinza hosted our Parent Topic with a panel of 2 teachers (Sameen Schoenhair and Stephen Smith) and Vice Principal Jeff Arnett. They talked about tools to support your student to be successful at Prospect. Jovanie Ascencio, our community liaison, was also in attendance.

Notes from the event:

- Sign up for SchoolLoop, check it regularly, and make sure your child is checking it, too. Pro tip: don't ask your child about the grades on SchoolLoop every day!
- All students should have a personal email address, and check it regularly. Help your child understand the importance of email. It will be used for the college admissions process as well.
- The written bulletin that parents receive is also shared to students daily in the form of a video bulletin.
- Our district has assigned a Google email address to each student that is used for all devices on campus. It allows students to share documents and work in a shared secure online environment on school work. It will not be usable once they graduate.
- How to support a student who is less willing to ask for help from teachers? Have the student send an email to the teacher explaining the issue or need. Help the student write the email if needed. The teacher will then follow up to provide help. Once students reach out to a teacher one time, it will come more easily. Another option is to go to the study hall to get help from a teacher in a less formal environment. Or go to homework center after school.
- If you have emailed a teacher and haven't heard back, how long is reasonable to wait before contacting the teacher for the second time? If you don't hear back within 24-48 hours, it is fair to contact again. Next step is to contact a counselor who may be able to nudge the teacher.
- SchoolLoop email or regular email? Either works, but some teachers prefer regular email.
- Other support services: homework center after school in the library. Safe space with quiet environment. Counseling services – we have invested in getting more counseling services. Uplift up to 3x a week. CASSY counselor every day for high risk needs. Number one safety threat on our campus is anxiety and emotional trauma and these services address those needs. Teachers refer out to these services. Students are self-referring themselves and their friends as well. Uplift is supported by El Camino hospital and has a focus on self-harm/suicide, and controlled substance abuse counseling. Group work is possible by Uplift and we are trying to start a group for controlled substance use. Maybe also a young women's group on self-esteem. Group for EL students who have had past trauma. Uplift is an elevated tier compared to CASSY, but either one will address referrals that come in. CASSY is on campus every day.



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- How often to ask for grades if there hasn't been an update in a while? Depends on the class schedule. Some classes have the majority of the work come in at the end, others have it trickle in over time. Have a conversation with your student about the timeline of the class grades and syllabus. If you ever want to check in with the teachers, do so. But don't email every day!
- Use study hall to make up work and check in with teachers.
- Why can't students take home math tests? The teachers don't want to send home tests because each test takes a long time to create and they don't want to make a new test each year.
- Question about topics of joint interest with our EL community. Grades? Current drug use issues? Social media? Technology addiction?
- Come to "Cafecito" – Cup of coffee talk on Friday morning at 8:15am – open discussion. There will be translation available.
- Is there any attempt among faculty to downplay grades, and rather emphasize celebrating learning? A lot of teachers are talking about it and would like that to be the direction schooling is taking. It goes with authentic engagement.
- Math and science help: MESA tutors every Tuesday after school in Room 65. Also, there will soon be a "tutor for hire" list available – they will be free or low cost.
- Homework center has teachers available from different disciplines each day. Check the schedule in the library.
- Parent asks about student well-being beyond academics. Teachers and admin are working on this, there are signs that school morale is improving – more students supporting each other, more empathy, more engagement between staff and students. Key instructional goals were just nailed down this first month (resilience and authentic engagement), and now we are going to figure out how to execute goals in the classrooms and on campus.