



Prospect High School Parent Teacher Student Association

Notes from PTSA General Association Meeting

January 15, 2019

(These are not minutes)

In attendance: 26

1. Welcome and Introductions! (Cathie Watson Short)
2. Financial reports (Xingli Zhu, Treasurer)
 - [Prospect High School PTSA Treasurer's Report 11/28/2018 – 01/11/2018](#)
 - Balance on hand as of 01/10/2018: \$23042.11**
 - Account Activities**
 - Incomes from eScrip \$109.29
 - Membership income: \$960 (since December 1st) correction!
 - Activities and Issues**
 - **Membership Drive:** 3 more members, total \$960 in donation
 - **Holiday Gift event details: Not in the budget line items**
 - Total donations: \$7558 according to Thomas' spreadsheet calculation.
 - half year audit in progress
 - worker compensation form filed
4. Report of the Executive Board (Cathie Watson Short, President)
 - Branham bike registration event with BikeFix. Principal at Branham is our contact. We are also hoping to participate. Cathie will try to find a sponsor to pay for the \$.50 registration per bike. App and signup is otherwise free. We need a few people to help organize it. Hoping every school will participate on the same day – March 27. Combine with bike safety? If you can help, please contact Cathie. Want to do this in conjunction with Bike Safety too!
 - Holiday gift program – showed [video](#) of teachers receiving gifts. Please help sign the thank you cards we are passing around to send to the sponsors who donated gift cards and other goodies.
 - AP info night – tomorrow at Prospect. 1/16 at 6:30pm. For parents and students. Note for students who want to take AP Calc in junior year: there is a class offered at San Jose City College in the summer that is relatively inexpensive and is equivalent to IM4. SJCC course schedule is available Mar 25. Flier available.
 - Book club is on hiatus until next year unless someone wants to organize it this spring.
5. Principal Report (Paul Pinza)
 - A lot going at Prospect right now. Theme for this semester: “Excel and Be Well”. We had a wellness week last week, yoga, screen time, study habits, health and smart choices. This week, we are encouraging students to stretch themselves and be successful.
 - Scheduling classes for next year is underway. Counselors met with all juniors before the holidays, meeting with sophomores now. Changes can be made to schedules for a few more months.
 - Front office has been remodeled to create a more open feel, and also to allow the use of the new sign-in system meant to increase campus safety. The system flags



Prospect High School Parent Teacher Student Association

anyone in the federal database of offenders. In order to streamline the flow of the office, we are moving the attendance clerk to the front office. One stop shop for checking out your student. He appreciates your patience as we wait to get her phone line and internet connections installed so we can make that happen. In the mean time you still have to go to the Student Services office to check out your students during school time. Also, PHS has an identification system that all visitors must go through to come onto campus so we can ensure the safety of our students and staff. Please have your Drivers License or photo ID ready so that you can come on to campus. This is not required for just visiting the main office however.

6. Teacher Report (Sameen Schoenhair)

- Thank you to the PTSA from the teachers for the holiday gifts! We are so thankful. AP info night teachers are thankful for the dinner offering, too.
- Math program: CPM courses IM1, 2, and 3 – teachers are creating power standards for each level. IM3 and IM3 STEM were meeting today. Looked at what is taught in STEM and found some gaps to address. Math teachers are going to continue their work in developing scope and sequences.
- Question about IM3 STEM to Calc – Our teachers recommend taking IM4 before Calc. Students are exposed to all the pre-Calc material in IM1-3 but do not always develop adequate fluency. To make the jump, it may be worthwhile to take a summer course like Donna mentioned earlier. The district is looking at options to fill that gap, too. Also need to work with the local middle schools about the 8th grade options feeding into high school courses. Question – are advanced 8th graders learning the same curriculum as IM1?

7. ASB Report (Jensen and Smarana, class presidents):

- Winter Wishes week is coming. Some gifts were given out today: gift cards, pencils, sketch books. We've raised \$4K for winter wishes. The big rally is coming up Feb. 1.
- Instead of a blackout dance, we are having a winter formal on Feb. 15. This is in addition to the prom in May, which will be themed "The Golden Gala". Any parent donations or help with either dance event would be very helpful (contact Jensen).
- Second club showcase happening next week, so students can have another chance to learn about clubs.
- Jan. 30 leadership conference here at PHS for the whole district. No district mixer this year.

8. Reports of the Committees

- 8th Grade Showcase Night (Sangeeta Banerjee) – For parents and students. Jan. 28. Flier will be coming out next week. Sangeetha asked parents at the MMS HSC meeting, and they want to see:
 1. Student athletes to talk to
 2. Clarification about honors vs. regular classes
 3. For those who can't attend, more info and communication in writing. Put the presentation on the website, fliers, etc?
 4. Is the catalog of classes for next year online? Yes.



Prospect High School Parent Teacher Student Association

- Parent Ed Update (Cathie) – Angst movie showing Feb. 11 in the PAC. Feb. 12 will be a regular PTSA meeting in Room 30. The Feb. 11 movie showing will be followed by a panel of wellness experts. The event will be advertised soon.
- College and Career Center (Lorie) – wrapping up a busy fall. Some stats: 60 colleges have visited this year, we've hosted 4 workshops, had many one-on-ones with seniors, and there are 1,444 active college applications on Naviance. Every day, students are coming in for help with applications and scholarships. Amy Bencomo is looking for volunteers to help in the CCC, especially during study hall which is 11:40am-12:10pm and sometimes through lunch 12:10-12:45pm. A table on Mondays advertising the events coming up, help with the college speakers, and other help. See more info in the bulletin and newsletter.
- School Safety and Climate Committee (Sheila and Sangeetha) – trying to get video production (Mr. Medina) to make a video about safety. Also ask police to cite for bike helmet violations (with some warning). We are also working on the community partners effort, need volunteers to help liaison with the local businesses and hand out our information and window clings.
- Grad night (Linda Brooks) – events coming up:
 1. Feb. 10 Paint night 2-4:30pm at City Beach
 2. Feb. 25 restaurant night at Kyoto Palace, lunch and dinner.
 3. Goodwill truck and Krispie Kreme in March on campus (date not set yet). Save your donations for our truck!

Meeting adjourned 7:31pm.

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Jennifer Loftus

Parent Topic at 7:30pm by Jeff Arnett, PHS Assistant Principal: What are vaping and waxing and how to identify if your student is doing these things.

This was an excellent presentation that described what Vaping and Waxing are, what the devices look like, what Mr. Arnett is seeing Prospect students do and why he thinks the kids are doing it and also what he is worried about might be on the horizon. He also gave what kids of behaviors to look out for. I will give a brief description, but I did not take notes so this is from memory and I HIGHLY encourage you to reach out to Mr. Arnett to schedule an appointment if you would like to understand more about this and especially if you are concerned your student may be interested or involved in vaping and/or waxing.

First off all the most surprising part of his presentation were the 30-40 devices and paraphernalia he brought to show. All confiscated from students on campus. Many of these devices can be mistaken for pens, thumb drives or chargers. He said when he does a back pack search he has to



Prospect High School Parent Teacher Student Association

take every single thing out and go through it with a fine tooth comb to find the devices and substances. Secondly, he said that our kids in ALL demographics are participating in Vaping/Waxing. This isn't necessarily someone else's student. That said, he does NOT believe we have a larger problem than any of the surrounding schools and is glad that he is not seeing some of the scarier drugs he is hearing about at neighboring schools. He said we have largely great kids here, but teenagers are curious and want to be a part of the social scene. First offense is not a suspension, but behavioral modification where they meet the Assistant Principals and with the onsite counselors and go through a set of steps so that they can learn the dangers of their behavior and give them an opportunity to change their actions. If your student gets caught I highly encourage you to get on board right away with the Assistant Principals, this can be a great wake up call for the student and catching it early and communicating with your student is the most important thing you can do to fight what is being heavily marketed to our students.

The THC in the wax pens can be up to 25 times or much more than what would be found in a joint from years past. This is not the marijuana from the 80's and 90's. He is especially concerned for our boys as their brains don't fully mature until early 20's. This affects their frontal cortex, which is their executive functioning-how they make decisions. They can damage this area for their life times. It is something to be very concerned with. Juuling, which is the brand, but like Xeroxing is interchangeable with copying, Juuling is interchangeable with vaping. Mostly students use nicotine in Juuls, but the nicotine levels are much higher and the dyes and chemicals used in the Juul juice that are smoked are dangerous for the lungs. There is a condition called [Popcorn Lung](#) and teens are showing up in the hospitals with this condition that damages their lungs.

Edible forms of THC are also popular among students and look like popular candy bars and cookies so look closely at the packaging you may find in your student's possession. The THC is also much higher in these and overdosing is easy to so as the kids aren't aware of how strong these can be.

The one drug that Mr. Arnett is very concerned with at PHS is Xanax, he has seen use of this in our students and is HIGHLY addictive. Coming off of these can cause alarming effects such as seizures. Kids often take these and other drugs parents have in their medicine cabinets and share them with friends or go to something called a Skittles party, where all the kids put the drugs they each got in a bowl and pick one to take, not necessarily knowing what they are taking.

Lastly, Mr. Arnett again encourages you to reach out and make an appointment if you want to learn more or discuss any concerns you have. The staff at Prospect has been trained on what to look for and the they are all making regular restroom visits to make their presence known and it seems to be having an effect with less vaping in the restrooms. This will take a village response to keep our students safe and the Prospect staff is on board to work with you and our students.

This overview is done by memory and did not cover everything. We just want you to be aware and do more research yourselves. Please reach out as you have questions and concerns and most importantly have regular conversations with your student. Many are experimenting or pretending to appear "cool", they don't have all of the answers and your input into this conversation is critical even if they appear not to want it, that is natural, but they are still listening.



Prospect High School Parent Teacher Student Association