



Prospect High School Parent Teacher Student Association

Minutes from PTSA General Association Meeting May 14, 2019

In attendance: 25

Meeting called to order in Room 30

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of minutes from 4/2/19 –

3. **Financial reports** (Xingli, Treasurer): We need to vote to approve a new budget line item – a scholarship for seniors to attend senior beach day, which costs \$32 per person. Jen motions to approve \$640 line item to provide senior beach day scholarships, [Prospect High School PTSA Treasurer's Report April 02 - May 14, 2019](#)

Activities and Issues

* New category of “college and career” is added to the budget after being approved at last meeting.

* In next year’s budget, we will combine three categories: “Grad Night Scholarship”, “Senior Breakfast”, and “Senior Beach Day scholarships” into one line item for a total of \$1800.

4. President’s Report

- a. Vote in our new board members: Andrea McCormick will be new PTSA Secretary, Elizabeth Harrell has agreed to be Executive Vice President.
- b. PTSA Senior Scholarship award winners have been decided – 8 in all. Linda H. from the committee says: There were many good candidates, we had a tough time. Had 21 applicants, and the committee wished there was more money to give out. Winners will be awarded at the Grand Awards on May 20 at 6:30pm.
- c. Request feedback from parents:
 - i. Magnets: colors were a little difficult to interpret. Add Prospect attendance line if it isn’t there. Get a bigger magnet so the info is clearer. Make sure dates are correct for school calendar. Add music events?
 - ii. PTSA events and efforts – see back of agenda for list of events we did with PTSA this year. What did you like? What else do you want to see?
 1. Parent Education:
 - a. Repeat college application experience talk
 - b. Tyler Durman was a popular speaker
 - c. Need Parent Education coordinator for next year
 - d. Panel of experts after Angst was really helpful
 - e. Screenagers follow up – we would like to do something similar next year, maybe the movie “Like”, about social media, then do a panel and parent small group discussion afterward.
 - f. Book club was a new event this year, meant to get together in a small group and read and share information about parenting. Might continue if we can find a coordinator (if Lisa doesn’t return next year).



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2. Parent Topic portion of the PTSA meeting was new this year. The idea was to make the PTSA business portion of the meeting shorter, then do a topic for parents afterward for the remainder of the time. Feedback on the topics we had this year:
 - a. Liked the vaping and drugs presentation
 - b. Suggest a topic on safety, security, and discipline on campus. Because vaping, bullying, etc., are happening on campus. How does the parent best support the student? And what is the parent communication plan when there is an active shooter on campus, etc. How to share insider information from your student with the school staff without hurting your student.
 - c. NGSS science standards – Some missed the presentation and would like to see it given again. Revisit this with information about adoption of curriculum and textbook.
 3. PTSA focused on staff in several ways that will be repeated next year: holiday appreciation, teacher grants – 15 in total, teacher appreciation lunch
 4. Held 3 SAT/ACT prep classes that were successful
 5. Panther Partner program is up and running. Café Banc by See's candy has Prospect art displayed.
 6. Bike registration day was ok – some students did register. Idea: Ask sports coaches to hand out the paperwork for registration.
- iii. PTSA board needs new members – contact me if you are interested!

5. Principal's Report (Paul Pinza) – School update

- a. Senior mailer going out soon with the following important dates:
 - i. May 20 senior reveal and Grand Awards
 - ii. May 30-31 finals
 - iii. June 3 beach day
 - iv. June 4 breakfast and rehearsal
 - v. June 5-6 practice
 - vi. NEW: June 4-5 cap decorating
 - vii. June 6 graduation: new recessional plan ends behind end zone. Families join grads there.
- b. Facilities, Tech, Infrastructure
 - i. Outside furniture has been installed – new benches and lunch tables
 - ii. Furniture inside – revamp inside classrooms. About 35 classrooms will get new chairs. Some will get desks as well, that will have 2 wheels and a dry erase surface with adjustable height. Installed before classes start in the fall.
 - iii. Chromebooks to all students 1:1 – each student will be issued a Chromebook like a textbook at the beginning of the year.
 - iv. The new building is not being built as planned. The prefab building cannot be installed on the site because of the soil quality. We are asking



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the contractors to figure out a new solution for the site. Hope to get those classrooms open in 2020.

- c. Great data this year: The students took new tests and more tests, but we had 98% participation rate. Only .5% suspensions/expulsions this whole year – only 8 in total.
 - d. Great spring at PHS – lots of CCS qualifiers in sports, some went to states, great international week. Therapy dogs visited and students loved it.
 - e. TEALS & AP Computer Science – this is a new effort starting next year to bring computer science and tech professionals into the classroom. The idea is to include real world applications in the instruction. PHS is actively looking for tech sector volunteers to come to the classroom next school year. It will be a morning block class. Contact Paul Pinza for more information.
 - f. Newsletter will be sent to all parents at the end of the year with final wrap-up. Preview of online registration and schedule pickup process, and site plan updates.
6. **Teacher Report** (Sameen Schoenhair) – no report
 7. **ASB Report** – no report
 8. **Reports of the Committees**
 - a. Grad Night (Linda Brooks) – ticket sales are ongoing but sales end May 24th, will be doing some teasers to encourage sales at the senior reveal. Need helpers for grad night and senior breakfast – look for signups in the bulletin and email.

Meeting adjourned

Parent Topic at 7:30pm: *Effective High School Parent-Teacher Communication*

Paul will lead this discussion with a panel of teachers on effective communication.

Notes from talk:

Panel members:

- Paul Pinza, Principal
- Frank Medina: Video Production, English, Soccer coach
- Sameen Schoenhair: Math Calc BC and IM4
- Stacey Rader: Science Department Chair, currently teachers Human Bio, Physiology

Our School Motto is “Owning Our Future”: We prepare students to take control of their future. WE keep all opportunities open to every student. We are all in this together. We are a community, we don’t allow any Panther’s future to get hijacked. Our experience in high school is more than just a transcript. How we are learning impacts the world. Students will see and own their own impact.



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College and Career Ready: Students should come to know how they want to impact our shared future, and can practice it at PHS. Students learn about college to help them develop those skills. They learn about themselves and come to know the environments that best support their academic and emotional health. Not about competition with others.

Outcomes for tonight's discussion: Find shared understandings that can form the basis for effective communication between teachers and parents. Identify who to contact about certain topics, and norms for how to address each other.

Ways that parents and teachers can communicate:

- Email and Schoolloop
- Phone call
- Ransom letter 😊 (this was a joke by a parent that wanted to get information to a teacher, but not have it embarrass their student)
- Talk in person
- Through guidance counselor, to follow up on previous contact with teacher
- Student is the messenger, or ask student to reach out with first contact

When should a parent get involved: Teachers would like the student to come to them first. Self-advocacy is a really important skill the teachers would like the students to practice. If the student has approached the teacher and the parent gets involved afterward, teachers are willing to be held accountable. Verbal and written communications are effective in either order depending on the situation and the comfort of the student. For meetings, teachers prefer to have the student, teacher, and parent come together in a 3-way meeting to talk things out – this has the best outcomes as everyone hears all of the communication and can agree on the outcomes together. Teachers would like parents to let them know if there are incidents reported of vaping or cheating in class, or other situations a student is reluctant to report to the school. The more details the better, only giving information that there is cheating or vaping can be hard for a teacher to follow up on as there are 32 students in most classes.

Parents who are upset should pause before they “yell” or send a strongly worded email, and even use the “24 hour rule” in which you sleep on it before contacting the teacher. Find out from the teacher how they prefer to be contacted – Schoolloop or district email, phone, etc. Checking on Schoolloop updates – email the teacher to ask for an update on their posting. Another teacher asks parents to remind students to think about their timing when they need something from a teacher. After the bell rings at the start of class is not usually a good time.

Rules of Thumb for teacher parent communication

1. Have student speak or email with the teacher first. Give your student the opportunity to learn self-advocacy. This is a great environment to learn it.
2. If that doesn't resolve the issue the parent should send an email follow up asking questions about the situation.
3. Next step would be to request a parent, student teacher meeting.



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- a. This often resolves the issue or at least creates a plan to work from.
 - b. All parties hear the whole story.
4. Only after those methods have been tried should parents contact the administrators as when we go to them first we are basically going to the teachers' bosses first.

Concerns the Parents had:

School Loop isn't updated and student and/or parent thinks they have an A due to early grades being put in and then the grades are updated close to the end of a grading period and the student's grade has dropped without time to address. – Email the teacher to ask if they can update School Loop if you see that the grades haven't been updated in a while. If it continues to be a problem then reach out to your guidance counselor or assistant principal for help.

Cheating or vaping is being reported by their student, but the student doesn't want the parent to say anything. – Teachers said PLEASE tell them. It is hard to catch all of this and they want to. Give them all the details you have. Parents were very concerned their child might get called out in class if they did this, teachers on the panel said they will not implicate your student.

Student not learning and parent having to get a tutor for the student to learn. – set up a parent, student, teacher meeting to find out what is going on and discuss what resources are needed. If that does not resolve the issue then meet with the Guidance counselor to discuss next steps.

The bottom line is that we need to communicate and our principal and teachers want you to feel comfortable doing so. It won't always be perfect, but Mr. Pinza is committed to bettering the process and communication. And as always, PTSA is a place for parents to bring up questions and concerns and to find out if this is something others are experiencing.