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Sep 10th PTSA Notes - What Happened?

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Reply-To: Prospect PTSA <communication@prospectptsa.org>

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Dear Prospect Families, these are the notes that we send out from our meetings each month. The purpose is to keep you informed, but they are in note form and haven't had a lot of editing. Please

ask questions if you have them! communication@prospectptsa.org

Notes from PTSA General Association Meeting

DATE 9/10/19

ProspectPTSA.org

In attendance: 35

Minutes from PTSA General Association Meeting
DATE 9-10-19

Welcome and Introductions (Cathie)

Approval of minutes from 8-13-19

Financial reports (Xingli, Treasurer):

Membership drive so far raise \$7,000 about ½ of the amount from last year of \$14,000 our goal is \$25,000 this year. We hope all will [donate](#) this is our main fundraiser and is what we use for our budget for the entire year.

Spending to approve: for student involvement committee: recommended \$500 for marketing, flyers, decorations, snacks.

Prospect High School PTSA Treasurer's Report July 1 - Sept 8, 2019

Balance on hand as of 9/8/19: \$22,063.43

Activities and Issues

New category of "PTSA Student Involvement Committee" is added to the budget: \$500

President's Report (Cathie, President)

Monthly president's council of the district: involves superintendents, representatives of the various schools. Elizabeth (EVP) attended. Big push this year is communication: wanting to get their name recognition (CUHSD). Question: do parents care about the district or just the school their own children attends? Brainstorming session ensued. Consider: focus communication from district on how it affects the individual schools. Other issues: everyone is on track with construction except Prospect. The idea of a parcel tax was brought up.

Student Involvement Committee: new committee (kind of the PTSA "club"). Second meeting took place; first meeting all freshman! Very enthusiastic. Judy (one of the students) set up Remind APP to help organize meetings. Noel another member invited more members: 15 total members this time including sophomores and juniors. Officers work side-by-side (lower class and upper class members). Working on homecoming decoration as first agenda item. Goal is to have PTSA adults step back and have students take over leading the meetings/club.

Question from member: how do we know who is the teacher advisor is for each club? Answer from Riley (student ASB PTSA Liaison): we are working on generating a list and meeting times, yet to come.

Reports from various committees:

Music boosters: they would like to have a representative come to give report to PTSA, not available today but report was submitted and read as attached.

Specifically, see link for signing up for concession stand shifts (main fundraiser for music boosters)

Principal's Report (Paul Pinza) –

First football game: it was a great night! Shout out to everyone involved. Great music, football team put together a wonderful tribute to Angel Gutierrez (a PHS graduate) who was deeply involved in football and recently died in a car accident. We lost 7-0 to Westmont, but they are in a division higher than ours and so we felt that our team played very well. Class of 99 was there as part of their reunion weekend, it was a really great night involved many corners of our community.

The gym construction: The story of the construction: slated for retrofitting and installation of HVAC. It was supposed to be completed over the summer but the crew was way behind; at the end of the summer the district intervened preparing to rescind the contract. We had to evacuate the construction crew for class to start; but ultimately the PE department graciously evacuated for another 2 week trial of that construction contract but unfortunately the work was still unsatisfactory and the crew was let go; we are in the process of finding another crew to complete the contract. Retrofitting needs to come first and HVAC second.

New furniture: over the last 3 weekends the new desks and chairs have been installed in 35 classrooms across campus. They are whiteboard desktops (students can write directly on the desktop). Adjustable height; can sit-stand. Chairs are much more comfortable. Has been very positive reception from students.

School site council is still open for anyone who wants to be a part; this committee provides feedback for the overall plan for school for the year, budget input, parents/teachers/students/community members have a role. About 5 Meetings a year on a Thursday, 4:30 Staff lounge. Contact

volunteer@ProspectPTSA.org if you are interested. This is a great way to see the overall Prospect plan and to have input. A small time investment, about 5-6 hours in 4-5 meetings throughout the school year.

Call for volunteers on Friday 9/20 (first minimum day) for drive to submit free/reduced lunch applications: remember it doesn't just discount lunch but also PSAT and other important discounts. Library 12:00-7:00 on that day. Multilingual speakers are particularly welcome.

Drop off area: thank you to parents for following directions. At pick up: we can't exit on English drive effectively; likely bc Lyle traffic light isn't long enough; Mr Pinza called city and the city plans to extend that light time.

New auto dialer system for attendance: in conversing with district (it's a district wide system) those 8 am messages will no longer go out. The 10 am and 1 pm tardy/absent messages will continue as before.

Weekly phone message by Mr. Pinza on what is going at the school usually on Sunday or Monday, if you are not receiving these messages from Mr Pinza at least once weekly, call the registrar because some communication should be had from principal weekly; usually a phone call but sometimes just an email.

Swimming pool: scheduled for a complete renovation: we have always been in the last round as planned in the district for renovation. Work is scheduled for late next week to start. Optimistic result would be completion before the end of the school year.

Teacher Report (John McGowen) – Mr McGowen is out, Cathie gave report: main question is about teacher mini grants. Also, adapting to new furniture, working on new initiative “triangle of communication”

ASB Report – Riley: what does ASB do? Meet every morning at 7:15-7:55 and plans almost everything that happens at Prospect!

Homecoming week (Oct 21-27) is one of the biggest events of the year:
Monday: homecoming “court:” senior class picks about 8 seniors on the court, vote in top 2-3. Bubble soccer. Tuesday: girls' powder puff starts: flag football and dance routines: open to both genders. Teachers get involved.
Wednesday: quad dec (each class competes decorating a section of the quad in a certain theme; this year=video games), more flag football and night rally:

games, class competitions, Thursday: morning roar. Too much paint last year?

Discussing ideas as to how to make it cleaner and safer this year. Friday: football game high attendance. Working on creating a welcoming environment.

Bringing panther pack to game, positive and active cheering section.

Saturday: homecoming dance at 7, parents decorate

Reports of the Committees

Membership drive

Volunteer report: Tina. Has been updating the volunteer opportunity list on the PTSA website. Highlighting the “hot” volunteer options (ie events coming up really soon) i.e. right now homecoming and open house. We also have board positions available: parent education position, many topics have been set, just need logistical coordination. Last year we had 700 kids at Homecoming, all food is donated by parents. It’s easy please help! We always run out of water. Bring vegetarian and vegan dishes. Suggestion: in the daily bulletin include link: maybe make a permanent home in the daily bulletin so easier for parents to find

Teacher mini grants: applications went out today and are due 9/30/19

College and career center urgently needs volunteers to help out with college visits. If you can come 11:30-12:15 on campus Amy Bencomo needs help, needs help every day of the week, preferably if volunteers could commit to a certain day. Parents’ role would be to greet the visiting representative from the college and monitoring the students attending the specific session. Per Cathie: it’s a great way to learn a lot about various colleges.

Communications: $\frac{3}{4}$ of the students don’t have school loop. PHS going through a thorough evaluation of all communication methods to improve outreach and efficiency. At Branham, apparently, they had a full community event to get everyone signed up for School loop including “swag giveaways”

No report from panther paws and grad night committees

Next education night in November: English departments showing the movie “Like”

SAT/ACT practice test will be 11/2/19 in the am on campus at PHS: stay tuned. Will ask for \$10 donation, hosted by revolution prep

Holiday boutique and craft fair (Denise): Save-the-date for the holiday boutique: 12/7/19 Saturday. Working on vendor application forms. Highlighting school and community involvement. Looking for parents/school/alumni/students/neighborhood involvement.

Meeting adjourned 7:27 pm.

Parent Topic at 7:30pm: Special Forum on Communication-- Students, Families, and the School

Facilitated by:

Paul Pinza, principal, and Sayari Chen, Assistant Principal

Triangle of communication came out of an in-depth discussion with PTSA teacher-parent-student-administration panel last year. When synthesizing all take-aways we came up with the triangle; representing our vision for how the school-family communications should work: Students at the top and parents/families and teachers/staff at the base. The concept is that our communication is most effective and impactful when all parties in the triangle are in the same place at the same time building a shared understanding and problem solving together. When we're not in the same place we can't build a shared understanding.

Examples: student has a concern about a class; communicates to parent, who contacts counselor/principal/staff. So information is "lost in translation." What is the teachers' perspective/goals in the situation?

What are practical strategies?

Mr Pinza: **communicate directly with teachers**; frame conversation from the standpoint of the student "My student is experiencing..." And end with a question: "Is this your understanding? What is your perception?" This approach is less threatening to the teacher and opens dialogue.

Mr. Pinza also said that some anxiety is actually skill building. We need to help our students work through some pressure and anxiety. Real life skills that they will need in college and the workforce are built this way.

Ms Chen: **Encourage your student to advocate for him/herself**; help them find the right words and approach. Note: students can cc parents on emails

w/teachers. Ms Chen: teach your kids how to write an appropriate email. This is an important skill.

Discussion of AP classwork: suggestions: some changes this year; with earlier registration there is more access to more materials on AP portal (your student and teacher should have your access code). Many parents offered suggestions for how to be successful; noting that there is more material on the AP exam than the teacher can cover and students need to develop skills of accessing resources for learning outside the class (study groups, online resources). AP classes require a much more active role than students may previously have had to engage in than before (even in honors classes) where learning was more a matter of being diligent and attentive and passively absorbing the material given by the teacher.



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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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