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Notes from PTSA General Association Meeting

10/8/2019



In attendance: 21

These are the notes from our last meeting and parent topic.

These are done pretty quickly with the goal of keeping you updated on what we are working on. Please ask any questions you may have. (If you can share your skills with making these prettier for quick publication we would love to work with you!)

- 1. Welcome and Introductions** (Cathie)
- 2. Approval of minutes** deferred (Andrea forgot to bring printed copies..)
- 3. Financial reports** (Xingli, Treasurer): Total of a few thousand more in bank from membership than this time last year! Added item from last year is holiday gifts. Expenses of craft fair will be added as we are taking part in this event for the first time. Approved to release of \$4000 in funds (already approved in budget).

Activities and Issues

- In the process of merging Grad Night Financial record to our PTSA annual financial report and proposed budget.
- Adding holiday donation event back to treasurer's report
- prepare to handle monetary transactions for Craft Faire
- discuss releasing fund for mini-grant

4. **President's Report** (Cathie, President)

- a. President's council meeting (Shveta attends). Vaping is a district wide concern. There will be two info session on vaping first 10/23 location TBA. Another 11/13 at Del Mar (in Spanish) lasting 90 minutes, presentation by specialist from Stanford. It was noted by a student, that at the Saratoga City Council meeting vaping was discussed (at which all principals in the Saratoga City District were in attendance). A parent raises concern that vaping is rampant. Per principal seeing less reported (by students and staff), noting continued vigilance on staff part in screening. Mr Pinza instead notes increased reports in stress/anxiety/depression and online harassment.
- b. Dual enrollment program is growing, open to 9-12 grade classes. Can be taken on any campus in the district; different classes are offered.
- c. Educational foundation has opened their grants; \$5000 offered to each school in our district, looking for volunteers to help evaluate grant requests; also looking for new board members; prospect doesn't have a representative. Email president@prospectpta.org if interested
- d. Soliciting ideas for PTSA meetings: vaping? Students suggest ways to quit or manage addiction might be helpful. A newsletter, announcement? Parenting experts/love & logic? Introduction to various prospect programs such as art, theater, etc?
- e. Another suggestion: a class on "how to study" Elizabeth Harrell discusses a class at Moreland for executive functioning that teaches organizational skills. Parents mention note taking skills, etc. AVID? It's an elective, so that's limiting for kids who already have their electives planned out. Mr Pinza points out that teaching study skills can be woven into the curriculum but must be implemented in a

coach” as opposed to a tutor. Transition from paper to electronic planners is presenting a challenge. Mr McGowan wonders about installing an app in the distributed chromebooks.

5. **Principal’s Report (Paul Pinza) –**

- a. Connected with the city of San Jose to adjust light at Lyle to assist with pickup and drop off. It is not changed during collaborative days when school starts late (because they’re irregular).
- b. Football team has a win streak, narrow loss to Westmont but since has won 3 games in a row. Student leaders have really stepped modeling the right kind of leadership and sportsmanship. Example: opposing roster for SSF high school is depleted, but our student leaders stepped up and were gracious and respectful. Shout out to the whole team and coaches. Another home game this Friday!
- c. Preparing to give PSAT to every sophomore and Juniors next wednesday 16th. Planned activities for Freshman and Seniors during that time to keep mindset and 4 year plans in mind. Community activities planned as well. For seniors in particular a couple workshops to explore careers or look at college applications and FAFSA project. Last year attendance from Freshman and Seniors was an issue; so big changes to address those kids’ needs this year.

6. **Teacher Report (John McGowen) –** nothing to report except where are the mini-grants? ;-)

7. **ASB Report –** Riley -- ASB working on homecoming. Dodgeball tournament a week ago. Teachers vs students was cancelled.

8. **Reports of the Committees**

- a. Student Involvement Committee: new this year. \$500 budget from PTSA. Executives introduced we have parallel upper class and lower class executive boards: Upper class: Noel is co-President, Anish is co-VP, Camille is co-Treasurer. Started planning homecoming, decoration committees. Making sweatshirts and t shirts, hoping to turn into a fundraiser. Lower class: Sophie (co-President), Jessica (co-VP) Fontanna (co-treasurer). Focusing on homecoming and upcoming craft fair, operation holiday elves, later

- b. Membership drive report: We are half way there, discussion of listing all of the 23 Teacher Mini Grant requests. We had more than our budget. Andrea created a list for Shveta to get out to our community. If you haven't joined or donated [Support Us Today!](#)
- c. Parent Ed coordinator: still looking for a volunteer. Next month (11/12) English teachers will be coming to show a film (probably Screenagers The Next Chapter) and host a discussion. Email Tina at volunteer@Prospectptsa.org if interested or want to learn more.
- d. Music Boosters: Mr Rodriguez. Program is thriving. New band director. Lots of activities/extra-curriculars. Last year had a choir; hoping to add a zero period or after school vocal group. If any students interested, let him know, or if anyone interested in pep band. Adding a rock/metal band as well. Mr Rodriguez welcomes ideas/collaborations. Would love to entertain at the next event. Has a very active group of jazz players. Not an official jazz program but there's a lot of participation and students won awards even without an official program. Could consider other types of music such as mariachi, or salsa...

Meeting adjourned 7:26 pm.

Parent Topic at 7:30pm: ***Dr Bravo, Superintendent CUHSD***

Eric Wasinger Construction manager

Nancy Pfiesser chief financial manager of the district

1. State of the district
 - a. Video--recruiting teachers
 - b. CUHSD increased college enrollment: highest # of college enrollments on records last year
 - c. Also increasing CTE opportunities, noting that 9/10 people go to college at some point in their lives
 - d. Facilities: \$95,540,627 costs of projects under construction. Measure A.
 - e. 34 projects under construction
 - f. 120 completed projects
 - g. 51% (completion percentage) (234 total projects)

- i. Upcoming projects: Student Union, new cafeteria, this is the one school that is having this done. Noting that Prospect was behind the other schools in construction updates. Goal is open by 2022.
- j. Completed projects: new classroom furniture.
- k. Local funding for Prospect students and teachers: increased local funding for our schools will allow us to: attract and retain the best teachers by offering competitive salaries. Provide prospect high school students with the same rigorous academic opportunities as students in nearby school districts in math, science and english. Provide with mental health counseling for prospect high school students struggling with stress depression, including suicide prevention. Cassy counselor is great but need is high. Pilot program at Branham=wellness center staffed with social worker, hoping to expand outreach. Increase academic counseling services. We now have college & career centers and college fairs, which are new.
- l. Enrollment is increasing, an oddity for the area. In CA overall K-12 enrollment is going down. From 7,453 in 2014-2015 to 8,839 projected 2023-2023. There are a few districts in the state called basic aid or community supported (including CUHSD). In these districts property tax rates are higher than what they would otherwise get from the state (per-pupil funding). The problem here is that when more kids come, the pie doesn't get any bigger, so with increasing enrollment each student gets slightly smaller \$.
- m. For the kids land development initiative: another revenue source. Contract is taking longer to negotiate than expected. Plan is to trade that strip of undeveloped land to a developer in exchange for income property. Expect \$1-2 million annually in income. Some have asked about teacher housing. Dr Bravo discussed all the challenges to using that land for teacher housing and our Teachers Union agreed that it would be challenging to use that land for that kind of housing as all would not have access to it.
- n. Parcel tax comparison: CUHSD has \$85 per parcel; compared to other school districts as high as \$820 and as low as \$49. District is considering taking a look at increased parcel tax.

2. Construction updates

- can ensure a 10.0 earthquake!
- b. Student Union: in 6-8 weeks plans submitted to DSA, will take 4 months to approve. Will be ready in 2022.
 - c. Major problem: dirt. This has come up with every project we've done here. The dirt is bad because it's next to the creek, it moves, so a small tin-roof 8 foot tall structure required 20 feet deep of foundational pillars. We'd planned on a two story building (a pre-qualified building, i.e., pre-fab). The designed wasn't able to adapt the foundation that was required per DSA. We've gone back to the drawing board and come up with a better design for use of the space -- 10 classrooms planned. One story. Plan to submit in 8-10 weeks to DSA. That project needs to start before the Student Union can get started, because the classrooms need a new home before they can get knocked down to make room for Student Union
 - d. Major improvement is updated electricity for the entire school. Unseen project but very important! Completed this past summer. This will ease the way for future construction projects.
 - e. At Prospect the ONLY building that needed seismic retrofitting is the gym; the rest of the buildings are OK. Other schools in the district have greater needs for seismic retrofitting.
 - f. Today passed inspections on gym; roof can be closed (was kept open for inspection); Saturday tar will start on 10/21 air conditioner will go on. We've had multiple challenges with the contractor doing our gym which is leading to delays they are now being closely supervised. They will be ready by homecoming on the 26th.
 - g. Swimming pool in midst of construction. Can go to website and look at pictures of ongoing construction! (CUHSD.org facilities page)
 - h. Press box: previous contractor in Texas, but DSA doesn't work with them. So new contractors, trying to make them all the same but prospect's existing one is different from all the others. DSA won't allow things to change at this point. Also a problem with dirt. Need to build a retaining wall. Trying to avoid touching the bleachers; if done, will have to replace ALL the bleachers at a cost of \$2-3,000,000. Putting lights on flagpole and scoreboard.
 - i. Several parents expressed concerns about multiple problems in multiple areas of construction not going as planned, feeling that Prospect unfairly shoulders more construction delays and problems than other schools. Concerns expressed about open ceiling with

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Go Panthers!!

The Prospect PTSA Team

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Questions? President@ProspectPTSA.org



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