

Altadeña PTSO General Meeting

October 18, 2018

In Attendance:

Monica Gellman, Shannon Reagan, Casey DeLashmutt, Terri Adamson, James Martin, Michelle Daye, Jody Gibson, Elizabeth Tudor, Pam McCardle, Krista Bailey, Janelle Mudders

-Meeting called to order at 6:03pm

-Welcome & Introductions

-Approval of August 20th Meeting Minutes

Principal's Report - James Martin

Step-It-Up fundraiser a huge success so far - almost \$36K (gross) raised after only 2 days. Students are excited about it. Currently at about 48% student participation. Different alternatives for fundraising were discussed prior - looking for student excitement and participation and this was a good fit for this year. Mr. Martin and Monica have addressed a couple parent questions regarding this fundraiser. Harvest Festival does not yield the funds that are needed anymore. Monica suggested that parents can also donate directly to PTSO if they do not want to go through Step-It-Up and welcomes any parent feedback to use to tweak program in the future. Mr. Martin thinking about options to lower the participation fee from \$60 for students to participate in the Field Day, or allow students that don't raise funds to be able to come out and watch, eat snow cones, etc.

Advisory Initiatives - building relationships and how we can make Altadeña a better place. Students started mentoring at Cerritos this week. Students working to update the lower grounds to a Sonoran Desert garden with a water feature and sitting area. Channel 3 came out to do a feature on our Water Walk which raises money for wells in the South Sudan. Students are taking ownership and coming up with great ideas for both local and global initiatives.

Mandarin program - First school to expand world languages in the Kyrene District. Mr. Martin applied to be part of a delegation to go to China - sponsored by the college board program which pays for everything but airfare. He will spend 1.5 weeks in China to network with other US schools and get to know the culture and educational system in China. He will be going from 11/2 - 11/11.

Altadeña just received an "A" grade from the State of Arizona for the 2nd year in a row. Mr. Martin working to be the best middle school in Arizona.

Financial Report – Janelle

Financial documents passed out.

Keeping on track with what we budgeted this year. Going to see a good bump with the fundraiser. FDN was budgeted to bring in \$1500 already brought in about \$1000 so we may exceed that budget income. In order to have a balanced budget, we need to bring in, at least, \$37K from Step-It-Up to avoid any cuts. Chipotle, from last year, was rolled into this year.

Board/Liaison Committee Reports

Spiritwear – Shannon

- * Student design has been chosen (out of about 20 designs). Andrea is working with a graphic designer to “clean up” the student design for the final shirt. Student winner has not been announced yet, so the winning design was not shared.
- * We will have distressed hoodies (white/navy and grey/maroon)
- * Wanting to have a ‘package price’ for both a shirt and a hoodie
- * Hoping to start lunchroom sales after 11/7
- * Finalizing pricing - long sleeve \$18, short sleeve \$15, hoodie price TBD

Hospitality - Monica

Next teacher lunch is tomorrow. Still in need of donations, specifically hot wings, fruit tray. Monica explained what Hospitality is/does for staff each month and promoted to sign up to help via Sign Up Genius.

Family Dinner Nights - Monica

- *Next is at Perfect Pear 10/24, all day, no flyer needed
- *Barro’s is November 14th
- *CKs is December 4th
- *Linda hoping to pair MOD Pizza night (1/16) with Baskin Robbins
- *Panda Express check received

Communications - Jody

- *Daily posts going up regarding Step-It-Up updates

Band Boosters - Monica/Amanda Holtom (Band Boosters Treasurer)

- *Fall Fundraiser (play-a-thon) did better than expected making about \$4000
- *8th grade band members (with Akimal students) played at a DV football game on 9/28.
- *6th and 7th grade concert on 10/3 went well. Sold CFA sandwiches and snacks.
- *Wind ensemble invitations to audition are still on going for all 8th graders and select 7th grade band students. Results announced by 11/1. Beginning 12/12, group will rehearse on Mon/Wed before school. Disney trip 2/14 - 2/16. Color Guard practice has started up. Next band event is 11/20 for 8th graders to perform at DV auditorium. 6th/7th grade and Jazz Band concert will perform at ALT on 12/5.

Old Business

Book Fair - Monica/Jody

Did fairly well for only holding it for 4 days (Tues - Fri). Donut Day on Thurs (12 dozen donuts). Money raised supports Library. All English classes come down to shop/browse which requires a lot of volunteer time slots. Not very many sales for being open all day/everyday. For Spring (April), looking at different times to have Book Fair open - like before/after school and during lunch. We sold \$2980.59 (with sales tax included in book cost). Our credit is \$548.91 for Librarian to 'go shopping'. Her credit doubles if she goes to their warehouse to purchase books.

8th Grade Dance - Monica

Still looking for a Chairperson for that event in May. Would love a 6th/7th grade parent to help as well, for future dances.

Box Tops - Casey

Contest going on now. Winner per grade, with most Box Tops turned in, gets new free Spiritwear shirt. Currently has about 1200 bagged up. Deadline 10/26. Need to be submitted by 11/1. We also participate in Amazon Smile and Tuft & Needle (20%).

PSC/Site Council Meetings - Pam

Last meeting was like an "infomercial" with all the restaurants/vendors that give discounts. Ahwatukee Foothills Chamber of Commerce leadership program was shared. Young Entrepreneurs. Mr. Martin stated that he believes this has been cancelled due to not enough participation - tabled for a year. This is not a Kyrene sponsored activity so it's not promoted very much. Working on a better website design for phone capabilities. Middle School redesign discussed. Created "belief statements". Working on better networking between our schools and working with local vendors that help our communities. Attended the Kyrene Positive Parenting series class on Bullying - wasn't as well attended. Other parenting classes that Kyrene has offered have been on technology, vaping, school safety, etc. Free classes for parents. Mr. Martin explained that a big concern are the wax pens that students are using - they do not know what chemicals are in the pens with no way to prove what it is. Could be THC or nicotine. Altadena is like any other middle school and has issues with student vaping. Kyrene Aprende testing a vapor detector device - when vapor 'goes up' will alert the front office. Not sure how that is working so far. Mr. Martin stressed the importance of parents getting in their students business these days and staying involved and communicating. District wide Social/Emotional learning program being explored with Dr. Vesely. "Second Step" resource embedded into Advisory and social workers for all 6 middle schools. All lessons pre-packaged so trends can be spotted and resources available. This is just one example of resources being used.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03pm

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Reagan, Co-Secretary