

Altadeña PTSO General Meeting

February 13, 2019

Altadeña Library

Board Members in Attendance:

Monica Gellman – Co-President

Andrea Caballero – Co-Vice President

Casey DeLashmutt, Shannon Reagan – Co-Secretaries

Rachel Schurz – Volunteer Coordinator

Members in Attendance: Cristina Carter, James Martin (Principal)

-Meeting called to order by Monica Gellman at 4:05pm.

-Monica welcomed everyone and members introduced themselves.

-October 18, 2018 General Meeting minutes were approved.

Treasury Report – Monica

1. Balance is \$56,707.17
2. Step It Up brought in \$37,750 with few expenses.
3. Looking for ways to support school and the majority of students by increasing teacher grants from \$200 to \$300, granting the nurse \$200, the front office/Principal \$500, office staff \$200 → Increase all by \$100 in reimbursable expenses.
4. Tuft & Needle – decreased income this year
5. Dodgeball earnings projected to be \$15,000 but were \$12,750.
6. Spiritwear is doing well.
7. Taxes – we got behind in filing and need to budget \$500 in fines in order to save our tax-exempt status.
8. Curriculum/Enrichment Other – new line item up to \$1000 would include activities such as Science Night.
9. Budget passed around with changes/additions in yellow and the vote was YES to approve the amended budget.

Bylaw Presentation – Monica

Bylaw changes presented today to be voted on at the April meeting.

Changes include updating language, streamlining terms and names and to fix poor editing. Major changes include:

1. Article 4: Officers – Simplified officer positions so pairs may run jointly for Officer positions, but it is not necessary to have an incoming AND outgoing President as well as Vice President. That was more of an elementary school model.
2. Article 5: Duties of Officers - Swap titles of Financial Secretary and Treasurer. 4a should be the job description of the Treasurer while 4b is the job description of the Financial Secretary. The Financial Secretary shall

handle the day-to-day processing and provide receipts for all donations over \$250 and requests for donations under \$250.

* Another addition to Duties of Officers is for the Communications Coordinator – add Social Media as a medium to maintain.

3. Article 8: Budget – This is where the bulk of the changes would be and modeled after the Sierra PTO.

* A draft budget needs to be prepared and approved by members. The outgoing President(s) and Treasurer will meet with incoming Board and put together a draft budget to vote on in May. This would also deal with spending authority for summer expenditures.

* Another line addition is for requests for funds outside the budget. Anything up to \$400 can be voted on and approved by the Executive Board. Fund requests over \$400 would need to be voted on and approved at a General Meeting.

These changes are not being voted on today. Monica will upload to the website for all to look at and submit for vote and approval in April.

Principal's Report – James Martin

1. Science Night and Chinese New Year Celebration

These events were successful for first time events and he received lots of positive feedback from them. He is very thankful to staff and parents for the support. Next year, we may partner with Cerritos.

Chinese New Year had around 130 people and our superintendent was there. This was a special way to promote our Mandarin program.

2. Cell phone policy changes

We are always trying to reinforce the concept on how to be competitive in a global market using technology when appropriate. Group projects make sense for cell phone use. Cell phone use at lunch used to be okay. Now we see the effects on adolescents' depression and anxiety so staff has asked to get rid of them at lunch again. There has been a positive response from everyone (but the students). However, kids are engaging more and we want them connecting and having meaningful relationships. Kids were also rushing through tests and projects for phone use and this will help with that as well.

3. Colin Karchner

We are partnering with Akimel to bring Colin Karchner to our schools. His hashtag is #savethekids and his focus is on depression, anxiety and social media. On Friday, March 22nd, Mr. Karchner will present at both schools at student assemblies. That night, he will speak to parents and the community at Desert Vista on how to protect our kids in this time of crisis. You can look him up on You Tube for more information.

4. Staff Meeting

A recent staff meeting led to staff committing to being part of an Action Team for our Lead Initiative. Staff were told that if they work at Altadena then they will be a part of one. We hope to have a community event and will try for opening weekend of March Madness. We can bring in food trucks, put the games on the projector and have choir performances.

5. Spiritwear

We'd like to get more kids to wear spiritwear and want to work with the PTSO to come up with incentives. One example would be to hold raffles for those wearing spiritwear to earn prizes like a Dutch Bros. gift card.

6. Questions from Parents

* Monica asked Mr. Martin about the recent post on FB Ahwatukee 411 page. A parent reported terrible student behavior at Safeway, Yoasis and Circle K. Mr. Martin has a relationship with our local business owners and talked to the Safeway manager about it. The Manager said all was fine and he wants to be inclusive of all in the community and no action was needed.

* Monica asked Mr. Martin about the Bell schedule, electives and 2nd prep period changes (going from 2 prep periods to 1). Electives will be multi-age and students will still get 2 electives. Mr. Martin said we will be going from 6 to 5 periods per day because PRIDE will be going away. This will expand the number of students per class. PRIDE is meant to be an Intervention or an Extension for students. Bringing in more social and emotional resources for our students is a priority.

Committee Reports

1. Candy Grams – We didn't do as well as the past. Brought in \$1000 less than predicted though it was well-organized. Students are saying that they didn't hear announcements for it.

Per James Martin – Regarding announcements, our KAMS program is one of the best in the state. We were asked to pilot a version from analog to digital which streams online, but we don't have the bandwidth so we are back to the drawing board. It's getting recorded then teachers have to pull it up and the disruption in schedule has affected announcements. They are working to resolve this.

2. Spiritwear – Andrea reported that we are all out of adult hoodies, but there are still some child sizes. All staff are getting a \$10 gift certificate for spiritwear (expires May 2020) to encourage them to buy. Forms are online with updated prices and sizes.
3. Hospitality – Staff Luncheons are going well with the next luncheon on Friday, February 15th. The Hospitality and Volunteer databases have been merged so we have a broader range to reach those interested.
4. Spring Book Fair – This will be in April. Information coming.
5. 8th Grade Dance – Information Meeting will be on February 26th. Dr. Woolaver will give us use of his digital photo booth for the event.
6. Family Dinner Nights – Yoasis will be all day on February 20th.
7. Band Boosters – per Amanda Holtom via email
FUNDRAISERS – The butter braid fundraiser is complete as of 2/8 and we made a net of \$2880. Unfortunately, it's \$700 less than we'd budgeted for. In contrast, the fall Play-a-thon brought in nearly \$4700. The good news is this was over \$3300 more than we'd budgeted for! The goal we set at the onset of 2018-19 for the final fundraiser (talent show) is \$700.

ACCOLADES – Select 7th and 8th graders were chosen to perform in the Kyrene All-District Honors Festival, with concert on 2/22. Several 7th & 8th graders were also invited to perform alongside Desert Vista students for the Ahwatukee Youth Band concert on 2/25. Our 2 color guards have been doing really well in competition, consistently winning their divisions. You might see them (& Mr. Ehrler) walking around campus in their new matching jackets!

NEXT YEAR – On Jan. 23, we had a great turnout of 5th graders (incoming 6th grade band students for 2019-20) for instrument tryout night, AKA the "Instrument Petting Zoo." Almost 100 kids!

As everyone on this year's band board is an 8th grade parent with no other middle schoolers, we are excited to already have candidates for President and Treasurer for next year. Still looking for 2 more names (VP & Secretary) to put on the slate for voting in April.

UPCOMING EVENTS – Feb. 14-16 Wind Ensemble Disney trip

Wednesday, Feb. 20 7:00pm Altadeña Jazz Band concert @ DV

Friday, February 22 6:30pm Kyrene Honor Band concert @ Corona

Monday, February 25 7:00pm Ahwatukee Youth Band concert @ DV

Wednesday, March 6 ALL DAY ABODA festival field trip

Tuesday, April 16th 6:00pm boosters meeting/election

Saturday, April 20th 10:00am Easter Parade (8th grade & color guard are marching)

TBD (April 10? 24?) Talent Show (possibly doing video-only auditions again, from mid to late March or early April)

Wednesday, May 1 6:30pm 6th, 7th, 8th Jazz concerts @Altadeña MPR

Wednesday, May 22 7th grade band playing @ 8th grade Promotion Ceremony (gym)

8. Box Tops – current contest deadline is 2/25. Prizes are Yoasis gift cards. Not getting as many box tops as last year.
9. Volunteer – anyone wanting to be added to the volunteer database, please email contact info to altadena.volunteer@gmail.com

Old Business

1. Step It Up – We signed a contract to do it again next year. We need feedback from teachers and students on how it went.
2. Dodgeball/Winter Wonderland – We made a little less than last year, but still purchased a lot. Target wasn't ready for us and didn't give us a discount. Next year, we need to look into purchasing bikes wholesale instead and tailoring purchases more to wants and needs. We need to get feedback from those working the Winter Wonderland on how to better benefit the Kyrene Foundation and the families it serves.

Meeting adjourned at 5:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Casey DeLashmutt, Co-Secretary