

Altadeña PTSO General Meeting
April 9, 2019
Altadeña Library

Board Members in Attendance:

Monica Gellman – Co-President

Suzanne Rinker – Treasurer

Casey DeLashmutt, Shannon Reagan – Co-Secretaries

Rachel Schurz – Volunteer Coordinator

Members in Attendance: Cristina Carter, Janie Miller, James Martin

-Meeting called to order by Monica Gellman at 8:49am.

-Monica welcomed everyone and members introduced themselves.

-February 13, 2019 General Meeting minutes were approved.

Treasury Report – Suzanne

1. Presented budget through April 4, 2019.
2. Balance is \$56,061.50.
3. Only \$5,700 (out of \$16,500) in teacher grants have been requested so far. Exploratory teachers share \$1000 and hardly any of it was spent. Monica went to Linda Crawford and teachers to remind them to please send in requests.
4. Monica showed everyone at the beginning of the year how to use their money. She will do it again. Maybe we need to put some money toward field trips to bring the prices down or use for classroom supplies (like Kleenex, dry-erase markers, etc.) so parents are not asked for donations. Teachers could set up an amazon cart and send to PTSO for approval. We cannot front them any cash, but we can purchase something specific on their behalf.
5. Suzanne asked if there was confusion over “Curriculum Improvements.” This is extra money per grade to use for a special speaker, field trips, etc.

2019-2020 PTSO Executive Board – Monica

Vote was YES to approve the following slate:

*Co-Presidents: Monica Gellman and Tyler Torba

*Co-Vice Presidents: Jen Metzger and Kim Graber

*Co-Secretaries: Janie Miller and Suzanne Rinker

*Treasurer: Shannon Reagan

*Financial Secretary: Janelle Medders

*Co-Communications Coordinators: Jody Gibson and Jenna Corday

*Co-Volunteer Coordinators: Rachel Schurz and Cristina Carter

**Still looking for Hospitality Coordinator(s)

Bylaws – Monica

Bylaw recap included biggest changes:

1. Titles of Treasurer and Financial Secretary were flipped.
2. Budget proposals of 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.
3. Fiscal Year ends May 31st which means we cannot approve a budget over the summer. Once new Board is elected, we can vote on a temporary budget to deal with summer expenditures. A May General meeting with new board will be added to present draft budget and vote on it.
4. Jody and Jenna need to put out a draft of the bylaws on the website.
5. Discussion was held to clarify there can be more than three people total serving the roles of President and Vice President, combined (in other words, there can be a maximum 2 co-Presidents and 2 Co-Vice Presidents during a school year.
6. Discussion was held to clarify that per the bylaws, the audit is yearly and does not have a specific date when it is conducted.

***Members voted YES to approve bylaws

Principal's Report – James Martin

1. Social Media/Screen Time Committee

The most parents ever (over 500) attended the Collin Kartchner event on 3/22 at DV. All parents are urged to read “Glow Kids” regarding the impact of social media and screen time. The student assembly with Mr. Kartchner was engaging and students thought it was the “best assembly all year.” It was recorded and will be shown to teachers who missed it. Mr. Martin wants to highlight more responsible use of technology and wants more parents involved in this and being educated on the dangers. The school is working hard to enforce zero cell phone use, but some teachers are more lax. There is a lot less use and next year, all will start off with the new electronic policy.

2. Community Email

Mr. Martin sent an email to all parents regarding the culture of our campus. There has been an uptick of bad behavior toward religion, race, etc. There has been deflection, excuses and lots of disconnect with parents as well. Trying to teach more empathy, but kids are exposed to You Tube comments and that has become an acceptable way to communicate with others. There was a call for a committee to address this and 28 parents signed up. They will look into resources like “No Place for Hate” and the district’s consulting firm. We want students to be a part of this too. PTSO can lend support/money for this initiative.

3. Flexible Seating

Classroom seating is still the same as it has always been, but research shows that kids now have different needs. We do not get new furniture until 2025 so new ideas are being piloted like standing desks, balance boards, etc. We want to address gender trends which show how hard it is for boys in the classroom. Mr. Martin will price out some ideas.

4. **Teacher Spending**
 Monica asked Mr. Martin how we can get teachers to spend their money. Teachers are asking parents for donations for supplies instead of coming to us. Linda Crawford sent out an email on Monica's behalf to remind teachers of available money. Monica is open to summer requests when teachers are planning for the new year. Mr. Martin is also pricing white boards and could use help from the PTSO. He will get us cost info and requests.
5. **Enrollment**
 Mr. Martin said that enrollment for next year is holding. We are all wondering what changes the new freeway will bring.
6. **Questions from Parents**
 Cristina Carter asked how vaping in the bathrooms is being handled. Mr. Martin said that Aprende was piloting a bathroom sensor to detect vapors, but it has not been successful. The reality is that kids will still vape even if a place is removed. Mr. Martin just wants parents to be engaged. It was discussed that PTSO could maybe help by posting articles, book recommendations ("Glow Kids"), weekly family challenges, etc. We could buy games (Uno) to put around the cafeteria now that kids are interacting more since cell phone use was banned.
7. **Spiritwear Raffle**
 Mr. Martin will raffle off \$5 gift cards to Dutch Bros. to 2 kids in each grade who are wearing spiritwear. At lunch, they can walk up, put in name and teacher volunteers will help. Mr. Martin asked for \$250 to buy gift cards for the rest of this school year.
 *** Members voted YES to approve \$250 for raffle gift cards.

Committee Reports

1. **Spiritwear** – \$10 off coupons for teachers and staff are coming in. These are good through May 2020.
2. **Spring Book Fair** – Chaired by Jody and Urvi, it will be April 23-26. SUG is going out for mornings and lunches. Thursday will be Donut Day (free donut with any BOOK purchase). Mr. Martin was asked to remind teachers to tell students to be respectful.
3. **8th Grade Dance** – Will be on May 10th. Monica has assigned sub-committees. \$150 in small gift cards and 2 wireless headphones have been donated to be given away at dance. An SUG will be going out soon for chaperone volunteers.
4. **Hospitality/Staff Appreciation** – It will be week of May 6th and we will start advertising for gift cards to be given out to teachers. Hospitality will get the number of teachers from Linda Crawford.
5. **Band Boosters** – per Amanda Holtom via email – We have a candidate for Treasurer, Kelly LaCroix and for President, Kristel Wheeler. We are still looking to add 2 more band parents to the slate to fill the Secretary and VP spots. They can even be incoming 6th grade parents. Our bank balance will be just over \$6200 after all checks clear. Recently we ordered 150 new metallic "Property of" adhesive labels to put on all instrument cases, as well as a large storage shelf. We will also be making

- instrument purchases before summer, but our goal of having the \$3000 cushion/startup funds for next year should be met, or close to it. Given that our other fundraisers have been so well received, and that fewer band kids have been participating in the show, we have decided not to do the talent show this year or retain it as a band fundraiser. We're in discussions with Mr. Martin about offering it to Student Council to run in the future, to get kids more involved with it.
6. Family Dinner Nights – Chipotle will be on April 16th from 5-9pm and we get 33% of the proceeds.
 7. Box Tops – Shannon Reagan will be the new Coordinator. Box Tops are going digital and will be sending more information over the summer.

New Business

1. Altadena will be hosting the Parent/Superintendent Council on April 16th at 9:30am. We need volunteers to help set up the room and refreshments. The meeting is for representatives. PTSO board members can attend.
2. We are adding a General PTSO Meeting for May.

Meeting adjourned at 10:41am.

Respectfully submitted,
Casey DeLashmutt, Co-Secretary