

Altadeña PTSO General Meeting

August 20, 2018

Altadeña Library

Board Members in Attendance:

Monica Gellman, Tyler Torba – Co-Presidents
Andrea Caballero, Elizabeth Tudor – Co-Vice Presidents
Casey DeLashmutt, Shannon Reagan – Co-Secretaries
Rachel Schurz – Volunteer Coordinator

Members in Attendance: Terri Adamson, Karen Amtsfeld, Niccoli Anderson, Cristina Carter, Amy Evert, Amanda Holtom, Gayle Jurik, Christie LaFrance, James Martin (principal), Tara Martinez, Bob Myers, Erin Myers, Linda Nagel, Margaret Pratt, Michael Reagan, Urvi Shah, Jenny Stone

-Meeting called to order by Monica Gellman at 8:45am.

-Monica and Tyler welcomed everyone and members introduced themselves.

-May 2018 General Meeting minutes were approved.

Treasury Report – Tyler

1. Announced Step It Up fundraiser will be replacing Harvest Festival.
2. Budget: Everyone received a copy of the proposed 2018-19 budget to look over and it was **approved** by a unanimous vote.
3. Balance is \$24,104.43
4. Our goal is to spend what we earn and not carry over a balance each year by giving more to teachers and school needs.
5. Teachers get PTSO envelopes to use for receipts and reimbursements. Each receives \$200 for curriculum needs. We've already reimbursed \$1100 since the start of the school year.

Election of New Officers

All **approved** the elections for new officers with the following results:

Janelle Medders – Treasurer
Shannon Reagan – Co-Secretary
Amy Hunt & Rachel Schurz – Co-Volunteer Coordinators
Jenna Corday – Co-Communications Coordinator

Committee Reports

1. Spiritwear – Andrea reported that we have lots of short sleeve navy blue t-shirts in stock. The updated order form is now online. The contest for the new short sleeve t-shirt starts 8/20 and the forms for interested students are in the front office. Winner will receive a free shirt and picture in the yearbook. We plan to have them available by fall break. A pullover hoodie is coming soon. We made \$2100 in sales at MTT. Mr. Martin urged us to promote Fridays as Spirit Days and wear spiritwear!

2. Hospitality – Monica reported that our first staff luncheon is this Thursday. Anyone interested in doing these events need to get on the e-mail list through Christie Ellis or Rebecca Haas because it's a separate committee. Monica urged everyone to sign up for at least one luncheon this year as a great way to interact with staff and meet your teachers.
3. Family Dinner Nights – Linda reported that we have Dairy Queen scheduled for August 22nd and Panda Express in September. She will have the whole year nailed down by September. She is working on getting the restaurants to donate a gift card as the prize for a drawing for those who “share” the FDN post on FB. Parents can use their mobile phone (or flyer) at FDNs to get credit for Altadena.
4. Communications – Monica reported that Cristina Carter will be in charge of updating the marquee. She asked that parents please “Like” our FB page and sign up to receive district e-mails and REMIND texts. A packet will be coming out soon that will have all of our PTSO info in it for the year including a calendar, volunteer opportunities, fundraising, etc. Jody and Jenna are coordinating this.
5. Band Boosters – Amanda showed the budget last year as making \$24,473 and spending \$22,723. They have a revenue of about \$25,000 and hope to spend the same. Some things they purchase are extra larger instruments (like tubas) so kids don't have to carry them home. They will also be starting a practice marching band with drumline this year. They will be doing another Play-A-Thon this year as a fundraiser. 8th graders will perform at DV on “8th Grader Night” on 9/28. Monica informed parents that BB is its own organization with their own by-laws and bank account, but we share the Tax ID with them.

Principal's Report – James Martin

1. Mr. Martin gave a Power Point to talk about the new district theme “Grow Together” which highlights 2 areas: Vertical and Horizontal Growth. Vertical Growth includes achievement, enrollment, programs and partnership. He said the school has a demographer to help project enrollment. It has been tough since our neighborhood is “not flipping” (families are staying put after middle school and we're not getting new families). Horizontal Growth is shared growth, collaboration and parent involvement.
2. Advisory - He explained how the “Advisory” period works. Students have Advisory every Wednesday for 30 minutes and these teachers are their “go-to” teacher. There was not positive feedback during the program last year. There have been adjustments after working with other schools to improve and make a better support system. This year, they are again using 7 Habits of Highly Effective People plus other elements to 1) Build Relationships and 2) to Promote Leadership. The main focus of each Advisory class is “what can you do to make Altadena a better place?” The students will keep their advisory teachers through each grade and these teachers are also meant to attend any meetings on their student's behalf.

3. Mandarin – We are the first middle school in district to offer Mandarin and students are enjoying this class by Zhe Kang. It was hard to find the right teacher and we are lucky to have her. The goal is to encourage language acquisition instead of focusing on H.S. credit. We have the largest Spanish classes in the district, but need to be competitors in a global market with a “world language.” DV has hired a Mandarin teacher as well so students can continue in high school.
4. Leader in Me – This is a program with Building Framework using Covey Resources that included 2 days of training for teachers. Highly Effective Practices include Leadership (professional, family and student learning), Culture (leadership environment, shared leadership and leadership events) and Academics (school-wide achievement, student-led achievement and empowering instruction). We have been enjoying students taking on leadership roles in the school such as the 8th graders sharing leadership during our 5th Grade Night.
5. School Goal – Our main goal is to be the best middle school in the state. Based on data in schooldigger.com using state test scores, Altadena is officially ranked #42 out of 700. However, it’s a broad scope and when you look at true 6-8th grade only schools, we rank #7 and we are the largest middle school among those. No excuses – we want to be #1!
6. District Goal – Catch Up, Move Up, Keep Up – Any student who is minimally or partially proficient needs to Catch Up. Proficient students need to Move Up. Highly Proficient scoring students need to Keep Up. Our AZ Merit trends stayed pretty flat from the previous year and we hope to increase scoring through Advisory, students and parents.

Old Business

Empty Chairs: Book Fair and 8th Grade Dance. Linda Nagel and Gayle Jurik volunteered to be Co-Chairs for Candy Grams. Shannon Reagan volunteered to be Spiritwear Co-Chair with Andrea Caballero.

New Business

Step It Up was presented as our new main annual fundraiser. It is an American Ninja-style Pay to Play fundraiser out of CA. The hope is that students will go out of their family circle and earn roughly \$60 each to take advantage of awesome prizes. If they e-mail at least 10 people the night of Kick-Off, they get a smart phone magnifier and they are entered to win an iWatch. The Kick-Off assembly is on October 16th and the event takes place November 7th. Our overall goal is to net \$20-25,000 based on our 50/50 split if we earn more than \$30,000 overall. There are also teacher incentives (through Advisory) where teachers can earn up to \$500 cash. This fundraiser has the potential to grow each year which means more money given to teachers. We can also take advantage of Company Matching. For more information, visit Stepitupkids.com

Meeting adjourned at 10:12am.

Respectfully submitted,
Casey DeLashmutt, Co-Secretary