

Sunset High School PTO Meeting Minutes January 9, 2023

Attendees: Tristan Baker (Co-President), Sara Thorn (Co-President), Kim Lozito, Bradi Knight Gates (Volunteer Coordinator), Hannah Wood Donohue (VP of Communication), Heather Hoxie, Amber Ferschweiler (Treasurer), Elisa Schorr (Principal), Chris Barbero (VP of Fundraising), Leslie Hmura, Martha Isla, Deanne Pitts, Sara O'Donnell, Kristin Hamann (Secretary), Julie Duffin, Angie Mitlehner, Sheryl D'Souza & Brenda Swanson.

Call to Order & Approval of Minutes

Tristan Baker & Sara Thorn, Presidents

- Called to order at 7:02pm.
- **October PTO Meeting Minutes:** Approved online prior to the meeting.

Principal Report & School Mission Discussion

Elisa Schorr, Principal

- **2023 - 2024 Planning:**
 - **In-Person Curriculum night at Sunset:**
 - **8th grade families: Wed. Jan 25th, 6:30 - 8pm**
 - **Current families: Wed. Feb 8th, 6:30 - 8pm**
 - **Purpose:** Check in with teachers, see the space (more for freshmen families), etc.
 - **Cram the Stands:** Runs Jan 27th - Feb. 3rd. Goal: to raise \$10,000 for kids' cancer research.
 - **Opportunity/Finals Week (Semester End):** Last week in Jan. and half-days.
 - When asked about **final exams**, the Principal said some teachers do give final tests or projects, but many treat the week as a chance for students to catch up and/or improve their grade.
 - **Winter Formal: Feb. 11th.** Theme: "Northern Lights". At the NW Events Center. Tickets on sale soon.
 - **Spring Musical: "Mean Girls" March 9-11, 16-18.**
 - **Sunset's Mission/5 year Plan:**
 - **"What is working at Sunset? "What isn't?"** Principal Schorr asked everyone to come up with answers, and share them with the group. She has also done this with the students, and will do it with the teachers next week. The group's responses are compiled below:
 - **Working:**
 - Awesome PTO – Communication, Culture & very passionate about students
 - Events happening again
 - School Spirit
 - Weekly updates
 - Lots of ways to get involved
 - Pathways are great
 - Glad students were asked for their feedback
 - Principal coffees
 - Counselors are amazing and really care about the students
 - Communication from Administration & IEP Staff
 - Great inclusive culture at Sunset
 - Teachers are nice and communicative.
 - **Not Working:**
 - AT time not useful
 - Big assignments over holidays
 - Teacher transition back from Covid/still teaching from videos
 - Teachers aren't grading things soon enough
 - Canvas vs. Parentvue/Postings aren't consistent and are confusing

- Opportunity week: Don't understand it. Seems like a lost week
- Electives seem limited compared to other schools in the district
- Teacher communication with parents is lacking
- Start time
- Parking
- Morning drop-off is scary. Kids are dangerously crossing NW Trail. Hot mess.
- Would like more info about Clubs that are available
- Sound system and bleachers in the Gym
- Lunch meal is not great
- Would like to see teachers' comments on assignments, etc.
- Activities aren't really being evaluated or examined.
- **Question: No Parent/Teacher conferences for high school?** The District decided a while back to discontinue them for this age group.
- **Question: Why aren't tests given back?** To avoid the sharing of test material with someone out sick, or needing to retake it for reassessment. Currently some teachers allow students to see their graded tests, while still in class, but not take them with them. This is still a work in progress, though.
- **We will do this "What is working/what isn't" again.**

President's Report

Tristan Baker & Sara Thorn

- **Apollo Giving Requests:**
 - Started the school year with **\$10,000** budgeted (Apollo Giving)
 - **New Apollo Giving Request #4: \$520 – APPROVED**
 - Requestor: Henry Anderson (Student - Senior)
 - Department: Mr. Farmer's IB HL I and II Film Classes
 - **Request: 4 JDI Gimbal Stabilizers for Smartphones**
 - **Requested Amount: \$520**
 - **Motion made by Sara Thorn to approve purchase of 4 Gimbal Stabilizers for Smartphones as submitted for \$520. Seconded by Kim Lozito. Vote taken and passed unanimously.**
 - **Previously Approved Apollo Giving Requests:**
 - New Yoga mats **\$500**
 - Laser Pointers for Physics HL **\$310**
 - School Supplies/Snacks for Grad Mentor Office **\$500**
- **Special Projects:**
 - Purchased New Library furniture **\$11,557.14** – Originally came in as an Apollo Giving Request, but was changed to Special Project due to nature and amount of ask.
- **Concessions Overview:**
 - **Only 2 Winter Sports and Indoors!:** Mens' & Womens' Basketball & Wrestling. Need volunteers. Don't have to have a student in sports. Easy serve.
 - **Concessions and All Sunset Groups:**
 - **March 13th** (the next PTO meeting), Discussion and **Vote** on how to handle this.
 - **Things to note:**
 - The PTO purchases all supplies to stock the Concession Stands.
 - Proceeds from the Concession Sales go into the PTO general budget to help all Sunset students and staff.
 - Past Issues:
 - SAMBA (Sunset Apollos Marching Band & Auxiliary) made arrangements, with previous PTO officers, to split the Concessions proceeds from Marching Band Competitions held at Sunset.

- They are the only Sunset Activity, Sport or Group that received a percentage of the proceeds for Concessions.
- **Board & Committee Opportunities**
 - **Open positions:** Treasurer, Secretary, Volunteer Coordinator, VP of Concessions and VP of Merchandise. More info is available.

Treasurer's Report

Amber Ferschweiler

- **Current Income: \$44k** – company matching, concessions, donations, but is about **\$16k short** of our needed budget. **Spent \$21k already. \$55k in bank account.**
- **Some of the things we've purchased:** Grammarly licenses, toner for copiers, library project.
- **Grad party planning:** \$18,500 ticket sales. \$22K raised by fundraisers.

Committee and Board Updates:

- **Communications**

Hannah Donohue

- Communications has 3 parts: Website – go there to find everything you need; Email Blasts; Social Media – Facebook, Instagram: @Sunsetpto.pdx

- **Volunteering**

Bradi Knight Gates

- **Concessions** still need help. Students could help – NHS, Leadership volunteer hours.
- **College & Career center** needs volunteers too.
- **Arts Program/How to volunteer?:** Contact Ms. Martin (Vice Principal), who oversees it.
- **Volunteer/Background Check** is still taking 2 weeks with the District.
 - Check your volunteer status online. Many have expired.
- **Question:** Do we have something where a club can get help with funds if they work in concessions? Not currently, but it's possible since we've done that in the past.

- **Grad Party**

Sara O'Donnell/Angie Patterson

- **Fundraiser:** Jan. 21st 7pm Winter Wonderland Wine night – Sunset family's home. Get Tickets online.
- 215 kids registered. Would like to have 350 if possible. Tickets \$85, but Scholarships are available.
- 10pm to 2am night of Graduation – secret, but safe location
- **Transportation** will now be provided by the District! Saves a lot of money.

- **Merchandise**

Sara Thorn for Breanna Smith/Diana Du

- Online sales – no more sales for 2023 due to Mouse infestation in merchandise closet – lost everything. Will help support Cram the stands.

- **Fundraising**

Chris Barbero, VP of Fundraising

- Donations: \$14,100 from Benevity and other contributions.
- Employee matching really makes a difference.
- Oregon Cultural Trust: You can choose this to donate to for Sunset
- Amazon Smile also can choose SHS PTO

Adjournment

- **Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm**

Upcoming 2023 Meeting Dates: March 13 | May 8 | June 12—*annual meeting to vote on next year's Budget & Board*