

Sunset High School PTO Meeting

November 8, 2021 7:00pm

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: David Butler (President), Hannah Donohue (Webmaster), Kristin Hamann (Secretary), John Huelskamp (Principal), Julie Gupta, Tristan Baker, Jennifer Gordon, Sarah Sullivan, Kim Lozito & parents online (Zoom).

7:00 PM

Call to Order & Acceptance of October Minutes

David Butler, President

- David called the meeting to order at 7:04pm
- October Minutes were approved as submitted.

President's Report

David Butler

- The Major Projects committee will hold their first meeting on Dec 1st at 3pm in the front office. All are welcome and invited to attend. The purpose of this meeting is to identify potential projects. For example, the tent that is over the old tennis courts, currently being leased from the district, is a possible project.
- Internal PTO calendar is up & functioning. Committees can put their own events on it, but the majority of things will still go on the main School Calendar.
- Bylaws committee meeting soon to examine/update the Bylaws. Once this process is complete, they will be brought to an upcoming meeting to approve.
- Holiday Drive is coming soon! The PTO is partnering with the Leadership Team & Tricia Buell to adopt 25 families from within our Sunset Community. These families, (while remaining anonymous), will provide online wishlists which then can be accessed and gifts purchased for them. More information to come.

Treasurer's Report (see attached)

David Butler for Amber Ferschweiler

- Apollo Giving is over \$10,000. Employee Matching Funds Donations are around \$2,000 so far, for a total of \$12,000.
- Taxes have been submitted.
- The full list of Budgeted items have been funded.

Matching Funds Coordinator

Julie Gupta

- We're halfway to our goal for the year.
- Dec. 15th is the deadline to submit Intel matching hours.
- You can submit under a specific category, like Grad Party, or just general donation.

Volunteer Coordinator Report

David Butler for Bradi Knight Gates

- 323 volunteers have been approved with their vaccination status.

- Please continue to upload your cards. Since volume has slowed down, cards are getting approved fairly quickly. Also note, the uploaded card image has to be a .jpg format. Nothing else will work, or be approved.
- You will not be able to register for any volunteer activities without this qualification.
- Instructions for uploading are located on the volunteer page of our PTO website.
- The district has announced that all volunteer restrictions besides masking, distancing, and vaccination status are removed, effective immediately. You should expect to see more volunteer opportunities arise as a result of this.

Concessions Report

Jennifer Gordon

- Finished up with a fairly strong income for Fall, especially since we couldn't sell popcorn & hot dogs.
- Can we sell these other items (popcorn, hot dogs, etc.) in the upcoming Winter season? If we sell them, we'll need to get a license. Jennifer will pursue the license, as Mr. Huelskamp believes we should be able to sell them.
- The fridge in the Indoor concession stand was not working. The district may have come and fixed it. Will be checked on, and if it's usable, we will have 2, as another one has been donated.
- Still need a Coordinator for next year to take over Concessions, and an additional 3 people would be helpful.

Merchandise Report

Breanna Smith (via Zoom)

- Working with Portland Gear for design concepts created by students, which is awesome!
- Close to having a link from the school's website that allows Merchandise purchase ONLINE!
- Plan to have a pick-up day, instead of a shipping option to make things easier. Dates to come.
- Sales are doing well, and they continue to place more orders.

College and Career Center

Jennifer Gordon

- Getting ready to assign mentors to Juniors. Meeting with students in person will be possible this year! Mock Interviews may happen, but will need vaccination statuses to be in place.
- Seniors have their full College/Career Credits already.
- People can still sign up to mentor.

Staff Appreciation

Sarah Sullivan

- For October, did Candy goodie bags for the teachers. Were gone immediately.
- For Nov. 18th--Slices of Pie available at lunchtime.
- December -- catered lunch with \$5 holiday gift cards to Starbucks

Grad Party

Jennifer Gordon

- Pie pick-up went amazingly well. Sold 419 pies.
- 115 students registered for the party. No scholarship requests yet.
- \$7700 taken in for registration
- Two recent restaurant fundraisers were successful.
- 54 bags were taken in for their Bottles & Cans Fundraiser at Pie Sales Pick-up.
- Online Auction launching Nov. 16th with link to preview.

Website Update

Hannah Donohue

- Current Meeting Agendas & Minutes are now on the PTO website. Whatever you need--blogs, photos, forms--we can put it there.

Apollo Giving Fund Requests

David Butler

- \$8500 remaining in the \$10,000 yearly budget after \$1500 granted in requests last month.
- One this month: Care Baskets--\$500 for 10 baskets
- Name: Riley Ogradowski (student)
- Department: ASB Leadership Program, run by Tricia Buell
- Request: In the past couple of months, three Sunset students have experienced significant tragedies in their lives (1 loss of a sibling and 2 losses of parents). As a program, we would like to support these students, and any other students that may experience family/life tragedies this year. Our idea is to create comfort baskets that will be given anonymously to these students when they're going through an extremely hard time. The identity of these families will remain unknown, and the baskets will be delivered in an appropriate manner to avoid invasion of privacy. We were hoping to create 10 baskets, each with a \$50 gift card for the family to use on takeout food and/or groceries. Since we are unable to purchase gift cards with the money provided to the ASB leadership program, if it's possible, this donation would be extremely helpful in assisting our program with supporting these Sunset students and strengthening the school's community.
- Date Needed: 11/2/21
- Mr. Huelskamp explained this would be for students that lost immediate family members, not extended family.
- Motion to approve \$500 for the baskets was given by Jennifer Gordon. Seconded by Sarah Sullivan. All voted, and the motion passed Unanimously.

Principal Report and Q & A

Principal John Huelskamp

- One-time hiring event for Sunset students (Age 16+) at Columbia Employee Store, Tuesday, Nov. 9th between 3pm and 9pm. 10% of all purchases during that time (with flyer) will be donated to Sunset High School.
- Students & families are so happy to be back in school.
- Choir concert recently performed in-person to a fairly full house.
- Opening night for the Fall play is this Friday, November 12.
- Club fair was a huge success! Unlike in years past, when it was only held in the main gym, this year it was spread throughout the whole campus. This will be the model from now on. Boba tea club to Poetry to Ski club to Ultimate Frisbee to Chess to a Comedy Club that performs for Children's hospitals and retirement homes--these are just a few of the 80 clubs that participated (a new record!).
- Back to school night was online only, but was a week-long opportunity to have students & parents sit down together. No parking issues either. Mr. Huelskamp is seeking parental input on this new format.
- The whole week of Thanksgiving is off this year (November 22 - 26). It was a decision that came straight from the district & the Board, not our school's decision. The following Monday Nov. 29th--previously an in-service day--is now a regular instructional day.

- Our students are struggling this year -- have already had over 50 kids this year that have been identified, through suicide screenings done by school counselors, as struggling with suicide ideation, anxiety & depression. If you know someone who is really struggling, please know there are resources available. You are not alone.
- Chat question: Can the PTO send out something regarding the mental health resources mentioned by the principal? The PTO can, but working with the principal and providing our support wherever it's needed, is preferred.
- "Save the Barred Owl Event" last Friday. A barred owl flew into the C Hall Courtyard, and proceeded to be attacked by crows. In its desperation to flee, it slammed into one of the windows & stunned itself. Many students rallied for its rescue, which caused quite the disruption. Finally, the owl flew away on its own. As a Community, we need to be as caring, and raise as much empathy for our fellow students, as was displayed for the owl.
- Varsity Women's Soccer State Championship Semi-Final game tomorrow night (Tues. Nov. 10th) at Delta Park/Strasser Field at 5:30pm. Tickets are \$8 for Adults, and \$5 for students.
- Sunset Apollos Marching Band & Auxiliary (SAMBA) took 1st place in their division for the State Championships on Saturday, October 30th! Congratulations on this amazing achievement!
- SAMBA also has their monthly Bottle & Can Collection Day this Saturday, Nov. 13th, at the Old Bales/New Target (on Cornell & Saltzman) from 10am-1pm. If you miss this one, they have it every 2nd Saturday of the month. Thank you for supporting the band!
- One of our students is a World Champion! She recently won her weight class by lifting over 550lbs. Quite the accomplishment.

David closed by thanking everyone in-person & online. Thanks for all the work everyone's been doing. Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.