

Sunset High School PTO Community Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2022, 7:00 PM

Attendees: Kristin Hamann (PTO Secretary), Brenda Swanson, Sara O'Donnell, Wendy Gibson, Kathryn Riley, Carrie Fox, Chris Barbero (PTO VP of Fundraising), Stephanie Sargeant, Jennifer Watson, Hannah Donohue (PTO VP of Communications), Barry Plocher (PTO VP of Concessions), Sarah Sullivan, Amber Ferschweiler (PTO Treasurer), Michelle Chesire, Erin Hire, Bradi Knight Gates (PTO Volunteer Coordinator), Dianne Jarvis Lumsden, Michelle McGhee, Lee Nguyen, Elisa Schorr (Principal), Tristan Baker (PTO Co-President), Sara Thorn (PTO Co-President) & Sheryl D'Souza.

Call to Order & Acceptance of Minutes

Tristan Baker & Sara Thorn, Presidents

- Meeting called to order at 7:02pm
- Introductions around the table
- June Minutes approved previously by email, as submitted.

Principal's Report

Elisa Schorr, Principal

- **About Me:** Raising her family here, and is from the Sunset area.
- **Student population:** Over 2000 students with 47 languages spoken.
- **Goals:** All have a great educational experience in this post-pandemic world and are pushed academically.
- **International Baccalaureate (IB):** 36 courses = college credit. 94% of our students score 4 or higher.
- **Back to School night:** Wed. Oct. 12th. In-person and Online
- **Cell Phone policy:** no phones in class.
- **Local option levy:** More information on the District website.
- **Parents' Q&A:**
 - **Graduation.** In the rain. Can this change? District dictates the venue. Ms. Schorr will check with the district and report back to the community.
 - **AT** (also known as Advisory, Homeroom or Study Hall): Why was it moved from 8th period to first thing in the morning? Also seems to be interfering with homework help or participating in clubs like Free to Breathe (Acapella Group) – all previously done during AT? District has required topics which are taught during Apollos Rise (the new name). Ms. Schorr is also working with the staff to get more information about the Apollos Rise schedule, as the intention is to have both tutorial & "free time".
 - **Ticket takers & Breathalyzers:** Will there be more of both, as ticket lines at football games and lines to get into the recent Homecoming Dance were so long? Yes.
 - **Fan/Spectator issues:** Why are there restrictions on how many times a chant can happen? How can we help kids not feel oppressed and stressed about attending events? Why are there so many "rules"? Ms. Schorr is working with staff and students about how we can make it better.

Presidents' Report

Tristan Baker & Sara Thorn

- **PTO meetings:** Now every other month to make them more effective.
- **Next Meeting Dates:** Mon. Jan. 9, 2023; Mon. Mar. 13, 2023; Mon. May 8, 2023; Mon. June 12, 2023—*annual meeting to vote on next year's Budget & Board*

Treasurer's Report

Amber Ferschweiler

- **Budget:** Handed out. Can also find a current copy on Sunset's PTO website.
- **Apollo Giving campaign:** Going really well. We're at 75% of our goal for this year!
- **Pass-thru Budget:** Several Student-Led activities are using it. Easier for them as they can use credit cards.
- **Merchandise:** All sales (including Football & Apollo preview days) doing well.
- **Parents' Q&A:**
 - **Current Balance:** Why so large? A Major Sign Project (about \$15k) from last year was postponed due to the change in administration. Plans this year include: funding of new library furniture, updates to our technology infrastructure, and regular spending. This should put our balance more in line with normal practices.

Committee and Board Updates:

Communications

Hannah Donohue

- **VP of Communications:** New role this year.
- **How:** Emailed Newsletter through ParentSquare, typically every 3 weeks.
- **Social Media:** Find us on Facebook and Instagram! [@sunsetpto.pdx](#)

Teacher Appreciation

Sara Sullivan

- **Breakfasts:** We do a lot of them, and the staff love them!
- **Welcome gifts:** for new staff
- **Budget:** Increased, which is awesome as we have 160 staff this year.
- **Upcoming:** Halloween themed event, with donations from parents.

Grad Party

Sara O'Donnell/Angie Patterson

- **Who:** Graduated Seniors. 65 kids signed up already.
- **When:** After Graduation Ceremony on Saturday, June 9th, 2023, until 2am.
- **Where:** It's a SECRET!! But it's a safe & sober place for them to be, and they can't leave until it's over.
- **Fundraisers:**
 - **Corn dogs:** Sold at Football games
 - **Pies:** From Willamette Valley Pies. Come Frozen. Order by Oct. 20th. Available Sat. Nov. 5th at Sunset. Order forms on the PTO Grad Party webpage.
 - **Online auction:** Nov 16 to Nov. 30th. Auction is for everyone, not just seniors.
- **Cost:** \$75 right now, but will go up to \$85 on Dec. 1st. Scholarships available.

Volunteer

Bradi Knight Gates

- **Concessions:** Our biggest volunteering opportunity in the Fall. Though not required, getting your Food Handler's Card is helpful. It's online, takes 25 minutes and is only \$10.
- **Volunteer opportunities:** Found in the emailed newsletter. If you're not getting those emails, you're not on the District's Sunset list. You will need to contact them in order to get added to Sunset. update_volunteer_locations@beaverton.k12.or.us
- **College & Career Center:** Looking for volunteers.
- **Raffle:** Holding a raffle for the top two volunteers that have helped out in Concessions!

Fundraising

Chris Barbero

- **VP of Fundraising:** New position this year.
- **Benevity:** Fund matching company. Check with your employer.

Concessions

Barry Plocher

- **Buyer:** Susan Visintainer is amazing!
- **Mobile Card Readers:** Brooks Newsom, a Sunset Grad, donated several for use in Concessions. Thanks, Brooks! We hope to purchase more. However, they require reliable WIFI, which isn't always available, so personal Hotspots are needed. A WIFI upgrade may also be in the near future – See Treasurer's report.
- **Shifts:** If they aren't full, the stand(s) won't open.
- **Parents' Q&A:**
 - **Recycling:** During and after Event – Tabled for now due to meeting time constraint.

College & Career Center

Sara Thorn (for Rachelle)

- **What's New:** Restructured this year. Workshop, Opt-in model.
- **Mentors:** 50 volunteers signed up so far. Interested in mentoring? Visit the PTO's website. Training will be provided.
- **College visits:** Both Juniors and Seniors can attend.

Apollo Giving Requests Review and Voting Tristan Baker

- Initial Budgeted amount: \$10,000.
- **Apollo Giving Request #1 – APPROVED at \$500**
Requestor: Tricia Buell - Teacher
Department: PE/Health
Request: 40 New Yoga Mats
Requested Amount: \$500
- **Apollo Giving Request #2 – APPROVED at \$500**
Requestor: Sydney Chuck - Staff
Department: Grad Mentor Office
Request: School Supplies & Snacks for Students & Events
Requested Amount: \$500
- **Motion made by Sheryl D'Souza to fund Apollo Giving Requests #1 and #2 as submitted, for a total of \$1000. Motion seconded by Bradi Knight Gates. Vote taken and PASSED unanimously.**

Adjournment at 8:15pm.