

Phoenix PTSA
October 11, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Start – Gretchen Dinneen 6:33 pm

- Approve Last Month's Minutes
- Jen moved and Dodd seconded. None and opposed and motion carried.

Principal's Updates – Dr. Flynn

- Seventh grade camp was a week ago. Overall, it went well and students seem more open and comfortable.
- Author Jasmine Varga visited last week as well. English teachers had great units with her and students enjoyed interacting with her. It gave everyone an outside perspective.
- Today and tomorrow Phoenix will be running the Signs of Suicide program with Nationwide Children's Hospital. Students learn more about how to support themselves and their peers, and feel safe and learn what to do when they don't feel safe. They had a successful first day today.
- Discovery Days are next week. Students learn the best first plan isn't always the one you do. It keeps students engaged and motivated.
- Dodd asked a question: Have funds been approved for Robotics Club? Phoenix has purchased some drones for next evolution of the club. Mr. Estes and Mr. Kabealo runs it. However, it takes a lot of manpower.

Direct Drive Summary – Andy Vogel

- A report given to Gretchen: \$17,542 in donations; \$16,900 after 99 Pledges' cut
- 64% participation rate
- \$1600 on first day; \$1000/day after
- What did you do this year that we can build on next year? Looking for responses from advisors.
 - Micah: We worked with kids in Foundations to draft an email and reach out to people.
 - Jordan: We also did emails last year and we can see a bump in donations. 8th graders helped 7th graders compose emails and students learned different tech skills like copy + paste. Teachers constantly reminded students about the drive and linked it on Schoology or pulled up the site in class. There wasn't a competition between 7th & 8th grade – maybe next year?
- Andy has some scalable incentives for next year and perhaps friendly competition can work. Andy and Gretchen will help get it kicked off next year. Kudos to them for communicating the graphs and numbers; it was cool for students to see.

Dine to Donate Update – Dodd Alley

- Swensons Dine to Donate- we made \$85.73 (15% of purchases)
- Noodles & Co. Dine to Donate – we made \$92.43 (\$369.72 in sales)

- Chipotle is lined up for December 4 (Monday)
- In the Spring he is working on Porch Growler/Pizza Primo for April
- November will be Donate to Dine; instead of families going to restaurants, it will be a canned food drive.

Treasurer's Report – Lela Walker

- September started with \$6526.36
- Debits included fundraiser incentives, the lockbox, \$186 accountant software, and cookout expenses.
- The month ended at \$6102.89
- Direct drive fundraiser money is already in the PTSA account.
- There is a line item for thank you notes. There will be an activity before break to teach students how to write them. They will use thank you notes for impact projects later in the year.

PTAC Update – Jen Kehlmeier

- Jen is asking folks to sign up for transportation/grounds and maintenance appreciation.
- Mostly treasurer and housekeeping items.
- Dues for the Ohio PTSA went down from \$100 to \$50 because hospitality and appreciation are covered by us this year.
- What is the Paul Jones fund – Worthington Education Foundation? Not sure what things will look like – we were advised to keep line item for Paul Jones fund. Gretchen will look into it for next year.
 - From the chat: Hi - I am former Brookside PTA president and the Paul Jones Fund at least in recent years was for summer school financial assistance. Paul Jones served as a principal and teacher in the Worthington Schools for 28 years and died of cancer in September 1995. When Paul passed away, many individuals contributed to the Worthington Educational Foundation in his memory. Since that time, our PTO/PTA groups have continued to contribute to this fund to support student participation in the summer school program.
 - **Action item: Gretchen will investigate this for next year.**
- **Action item: We will need to update bylaws and cover officer liability.**
- **Action item: Tasha can help walk us through filing the 999.**
- Portrait of a Learner – anytime we want to hear from the Curriculum Committee they will come out.

CLC Update - Jen Kehlmeier

- Board update from Charlie: finances look good and the election is coming up. Construction at Thomas Worthington High School is looking good. There are two open seats on school board. Jen is not sure there will be anymore forums for candidates.
- The Curriculum Council met and went through EdSteps, a system of tiered e-plans and supports. Admins are working with teachers on addressing chronic absenteeism and equitable discipline. Toya mentioned an EGAT – Equity Gap Analysis Tool. The council is working with an Associate Dean at OSU. The EGAT shows where we are with equity across the district. Angie also talked about Portrait of a Learner and we will hear and see

results in December/January. There will be a massive rollout for State of the Schools in March.

Staff Appreciation - Chandra Demick

- Food/dinner for conferences next week.
- There will also be a staff meeting donation signup. Snacks/drinks or other ideas?
 - Jordan: The staff have had Condados a few times in the past. Easy things to eat are also appreciated such as fruit, coffee (K-cups), creamer, and half and half.
- We also want to give treats for the bus drivers. We have added in Grounds and Maintenance teams. One treat for each group per month. We need to pick a month and sign up for that. We will use ~\$150 or less from the Staff Appreciation Fund.

Staff Requests – Gretchen Dinneen

- Mr. Hudson - Requesting up to \$200 for board game club to purchase games (the club happens during lunch but they are considering having it after school, too.) \$102.30 for five games and card sleeves. Exploding Kittens was requested by students who attend. Mr. Hudson is expecting more kids once the weather gets worse. This line item was rolled into the Teacher Resource fund and \$1000 is allocated in there. Leslie moved to approve \$102.30 to purchased new games and Jen seconded. All approved and motion carried. Immediately after, Mr. Hudson asked to add the game Chameleon for \$25 additional per a student request. Jen moved to approve the additional funds and Kate seconded. All approved and motion carried.
- Mr. Kabealo and Mr. Estice - Requesting 10 floor seats for classrooms (\$50/chair on sale, \$65 normally, for about \$500 total). These seats are for the classroom and not for eSports. Kids like sitting in them. Is there an alternative option? **Action item: The teachers will research into it and bring to the next meeting. Request tabled.**
- Ms. Pace (Library and Digital Media Specialist)– Requesting up to \$200 towards expenses for Jasmine Varga author visit. All five middle schools were asked to contribute up to \$200 for food and travel expenses. This can come from the Presidents' fund, Teacher Resource, or Impact Projects. Jen moved to approve \$200 to be used toward author visit expenses and Leslie seconded. All approved and motion carried. **Action item: Budgets will be readjusted; Gretchen and Lela will meet to discuss.**
- Ms. Hasanain – Requesting up to \$200 for Outsider's Day (all seventh graders read the book *The Outsiders* and they celebrate). This will cover food for the event, snacks, and a prize for the costume contest. In the past they had used the classroom fund but can't buy food using it. The students will watch the movie and have a costume contest. We could put this expense in cookout budget. We spent \$640 for 1st cookout and could trim for second cookout. Dodd moved to approve \$200 for Outsiders' Day and Jen seconded. All approved and motion carried.
- Mr. Allen – Requesting increase of approved funds to cover transportation to King's Island. \$2,000 is already set aside for travel assistance but they are estimating about \$3,186. Gretchen suggested we lower the Impact Project budget. \$5,000 set aside for Impact Projects; during COVID, they did pay out this much. Also, because we didn't come close to spending the full amount last year (we spent about \$3,500), this would make the application process more competitive. Budget constraints and not enough bus drivers. Everything pivots around bus routes. \$1186. Jen moved to approve the increased amount for Kings Island transportation to cover the entire cost of the trip and

move over the expense to travel assistance and Leslie seconded. All approved and motion carried.

Set November Meeting Date

- November 8 at 6:30pm. In-person

Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm