

PTSO MEETING JANUARY

16 JANUARY 2025 / 7:00 PM / ZOOM

ATTENDEES

Meeghan Campbell, Anne Drake, Kirsten Hensley, Marieka Kaye, Elizabeth Martin, Sarah Martin, Angela Newing, Andrea Redman, Amy Thudium

AGENDA

Agenda can be viewed here:

[PTSO Meeting Agenda- January 2025](#)

MINUTES

- **Call to order**, Meeghan Campbell
 - The Board approved the December Minutes:
[PTSO MEETING MINUTES 12/19/2024](#)
- **Principal's Report**, Angela Newing
 - Supported 44 students/families during the winter giving event
 - Jan. 17, MLK Assembly - band, orchestra, choir are all performing; kids wrote speeches, poems, etc. and submitted them to a committee who chose pieces to be featured at the assembly
 - Newsletter contains events that families can participate in on MLK Day
 - 8th grade language and math courses earning high school credits - midterm exams next week
 - More C days for 6th graders to prep for concerts
 - Important January dates shared:
 - 20 - No School, MLK Day
 - 23 - Principal-Parent Coffee Hour, 12-1pm

- 24 - Winter Fun Night
 - 24 - Q2 ends
 - 27 - Quarter 3 begins
 - 27 - Season 3 Athletics begin
 - 29 - Early release, 12:15pm
 - 30 - 6th Grade Band & Orchestra concert
 - 31 - Dine-and-Dash
- **Treasurer's Report**, Amy Thudium gave the following updates:
 - Amy shared reports by email earlier this evening
 - She added a column in the spreadsheet - projection based on what she knows now, where we'll be at the end of the fiscal year
 - Earlier in the school year, we agreed to go -\$18K, but we're looking at -\$25K now
 - We need to do fundraising or we draw down more than we should
 - Started with \$55K this year, we want to keep \$35-45K in reserve
 - If the goal is to stick with -\$18K we would need to fundraise about \$7K
 - Silent Auction event was the largest fundraiser pre-COVID, brought in \$18-20K
 - GameOn fundraiser could still happen in May, which raises about \$18K - Meeghan will contact the sponsor to get this set up (Delia Powell has the contact)
 - Communicate this situation to families to motivate parents to step forward to help out in fundraising; share stark numbers
 - Share bigger financial categories in a summary so families see the reality of PSTO expenses vs revenue
 - Andrea, Amy, and Meeghan can draft a letter to families about our financial needs
 - Teacher grants - \$5K budget - spent about \$1000 so far
 - Band teacher request, \$100
 - Orchestra teacher still has \$50 to use
 - Discussed approving \$50 and having the orchestra teacher use \$50 teacher grant, but if he's earmarked his \$50 for something else, approve the full \$100?
 - All voted to approve full \$100
 - Mr. Morgan requested translator earbuds, \$72
 - He will use his \$50 for this but needs help covering the remainder
 - All voted to approve \$22
 - Teachers can get in touch with Amy to receive the funds
- **Robotics Club Treasurer's Report**, Kirsten Hensley
 - New robotics program this spring, \$6K grant and \$150 donation from parents
 - Next event is in March at a high school

- PTOC Update, Liz Martin, attended meeting in January
 - Winter Survey of AAPS PTOs and PTSOs
 - **Link to [survey](#)** from Equity Committee - entered into a drawing for \$500 if filled out before January 31- ideally filled out by PTO president or another (sent to Meeghan)
 - New PTOC mailing address for dues checks:
 - Attention Ann Arbor PTO Council
 - 2555 S.State Street
 - Ann Arbor, MI 48104
 - You can also send to the PTOC Treasurer directly:
 - Ariel Wan
 - 5230 Dexter Ann Arbor Road
 - Ann Arbor, MI 48103
 - [Teachers Community Fund Information](#)
 - Open Mic Time: What is going well and what struggles are PTOs/PTSOs facing?
 - Generally morale is really low across schools, many are short staffed especially in special ed areas
 - High schools are also having trouble collecting \$50 donations
 - Pioneer said they have had a successful collection because of consistent weekly principal emails from the start of the year with PTO notes and donation link sent in each email
 - Discussed how to make communication most effective (being conscious of the number of times you communicate and make asks of the community)
 - Having childcare and dinner for PTO meetings to increase attendance
 - A lot of teacher appreciation efforts occurred similar to our holiday collection

- PTOs making an effort to gift overlooked staff members including custodians and bus drivers: 113 active bus drivers, 38 active bus monitors in district
 - One PTO went to a staff meeting to talk to teachers to get feedback about challenges they were facing and how the PTO can better support them
 - PTOs discussed randomly surprising teachers/staff with treats put in the teacher lounge
 - Some schools already do this and others were discussing it- having a stock closet of hand sanitizer/tissue/Clorox wipes for all teachers to take from so won't need to donate to teachers directly
- **Group Discussion**, Meeghan Campbell discussed ideas for fundraising and bringing in more revenue; Fun Night updates were shared, future purchases were discussed
 - Fun Night happening on January 24 - still need a lot of volunteers
 - Andrea will be signing up for the Glow Room with some friends
 - Ms. Newing will share frequent emails next week
 - Andrea will be Teacher Appreciation Chair
 - Purchase of a photo booth, popcorn machine for Fun Nights in the future
 - Revisit when we have more funds
 - Other schools may have this equipment that could maybe go on loan, sharing across the district
 - Ms. Martin has a popcorn machine in her room but it's very old; could possibly be used for events
 - PTSO attendance at PTO meetings at feeder schools for recruiting in May
 - Schuler Books fundraising in March, Reading Month - coordinated by Lori Shirilla
 - Basketball concessions - Delia Powell thinks this is a good idea

- Have team parents coordinate for home games - pizza, chips, gatorade, candy
- Will need cash boxes for the games
- Keep a spontaneous sledding event in mind
 - Meeghan and Kirsten have been discussing this
 - [Traveiln' Tom's Coffee Truck](#) could come - fundraiser
- Ms. Newing requested that we move the next PTSO meeting to February 20th or 25th to avoid scheduling conflicts
- Robert's Rules of Order guidance - Liz will share info for streamlining things
- **Next Meeting**
 - February 25th, Virtual Meeting, 7pm ([Link](#))
- **Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm**