



# DSMS SIDEWINDER PTO

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## Desert Shadows Middle School - PTO Meeting Minutes – 08-29-2023

Meeting called to order at 5:35pm, 34 participants (14 in-person, 22 Zoom)

### President's Report - Chantal Hause

- Members of the Board introductions and Welcome to the meeting to Superintendent, Dr Bales.
- Dr Bales shared that the PV school district website was recently awarded nationally. You can find a section with information on the Bond Election and the do's and don'ts. Information on classroom expendings with a comparison is also available on the website, district is 1st in the county and 3rd in the state. He said that there will be Bond Election Town Hall meetings in 5 different high schools in September. Dr Bales brought up a few points discussed in the last UPC meeting such as a cabinet assigned to discuss boundary changes and school closings. He also made a call to action to the DSMS PTO. Share Your Pride. Let's think about anything that PTO can do to share the PV school district's achievements and happenings. Possibly Tagging school district news on school's and PTO communications and newsletters.

Lastly Dr Bales answered a few parent questions regarding district STEAM initiatives to be implemented in the future at schools, housing pricing correlation to schools attendance and increase in early release day for teacher's professional development.

### Voting Items

- Motion to approve previous meeting minutes - Motion Passed
- Motion to approve this year's budget - Motion Passed
- Motion to approve Charitable Donation to Support Sweetwater Alternative School - Motion Passed

### Treasurer's Report - Brenna Davis: discussed budget for the year

- Starting Balance: \$13,346.02
- We are wanting to raise: \$40,000.00 – Asking parents for one time donation of \$100
- Fundraising - Budgeted \$8,500
- Principal's Choice – Budgeted: \$1,350

- Hospitality – Teachers and staff meals for conferences and teacher lounge supplies - Budgeted \$4,700
- School Support – Budgeted \$2,000
- Students Support PBIS / Clubs / Awards - Budgeted \$3,150
- Classroom & Teachers Support – Budgeted \$17,550
- Charitable Donations - Budgeted \$250
- PTO Sponsored Events - Budgeted \$2,000

### **Fundraising Report - Kristina Brown**

- Direct Giving Campaign \$40,000 to be raised this year. Suggested ideas to promote direct giving at school events such curriculum nights, conference week and home games.
- Four additional Giving Days at restaurants and businesses
- Leo's Ice Cream truck on site every other friday booked through October
- Kendra Scott shopping event in December.
- Another fundraising events will be the Fall and Spring dances.

### **Volunteer Opportunity - Kristina Brown**

- Fall Dance Friday 10/20/23 6:30pm-8:30pm

Kristina Brown will chair the committee. In need of volunteers to help. Tickets to be sold at the door and also in advance. There will be a DJ and Photo Booth, and the Student Council will get involved providing the food. Students will vote for the theme in early September. Over 500 students expected to attend.

### **Teacher's Report - Ms Magnusson**

- Start to a great year. Things are going well. Students are getting work done, demonstrating good behavior and building relations.

### **Principal's Report - Ms. Knaeble**

- Enrollment numbers close to where expected. Currently there is a wait list of 20-30 students.
- Working on A/C units. Maintenance needs to do hard resets in many units. High temps outside. Students being moved to cooler places.

- Drop off parking lot plan to keep kids safe is working well and the number of tardies is down
- Looking for Volunteers; School is in the process of opening campus back again to volunteers (copies, recess duties, extra hands and eyes on campus, etc)
- Resource teacher position available, looking to fill it by the end of the quarter or semester.
- The DLSI (Dual Language Spanish Immersion) program is going very well. In need of books in Spanish. Asking for donations of any reading Spanish books.

#### **UPC Report - Gardenia Flores**

- The August meeting's main focus was the upcoming Bond Election. District will send a mailer with information to all the residents within the districts' boundaries.
- There will be a UPC gifted education meeting on 9/28 and Special Education meeting on 10/19
- Opportunity of Outreach community. Families can get tickets to the Cardinals and the district will receive a percentage back from the ticket price.
- The fingerprinting process for volunteer chaperones has been streamlined. Time has been reduced in half. It now takes less than 4 weeks.

#### **Additional Items discussed**

- Pridewinder Bucks (to reinforce positive behavior). School needs prizes for random drawings, especially sweet and salty snacks (nut free) and DSMS pride items.
- Teacher Wish Lists – they can be found on the teacher's emails. Principal Knaeble will facilitate a list on the [DSMS Information Folder](#). If parents choose to have amazon shipments directly to the school, please indicate in the shipment requirements that deliveries be done only MON-FRI from 9am to 2pm.
- Looking for Donations of K-cups for Teachers lounge and nut free candy for front office Candy Jar throughout the year
- Principal Knaeble asked if PTO would support Sweetwater Community School this year for donations to their staff. PTO has a Community Support line item on the budget and agrees to support this school and provide as well food for one night at parent/teacher conference week.
- PTO to handle the Choir funds as a booster club. It will only collect the checks and funds will be deposited on a separate bank account of PTO.
- November meeting date will be on Tuesday 11/21/23 at 5:30pm. It will only be online.
- School Garden update. It is open to all students, potentially to create a Garden Club in the future. Mr Hartzel is working with students to learn real life skills in gardening. Additional clean ups are needed. DSMS students will create art creations to add to the garden.

- We LOVE our school family clean up day. The P.E. shed needs to be cleaned out, emptied and its equipment sorted. Principal Knaeble will set a date once temperatures cool down. It will probably be on a Saturday morning. Open for students and their families. Students can earn community service hours.

### **Questions**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:59pm**

Next PTO Meeting September 26th at 5:30pm



## Desert Shadows Middle School - PTO Meeting Minutes – 09.26.2023

Meeting called to order at 5:35pm, 19 participants (10 in-person, 9 Zoom)

### 1. President's Report - Chantal Hause

- Nothing to report at this time. It is important to point out that we need extra funding at this time to keep field trips that are on the agenda for this school year. Call out to families to volunteer and donate.

### 2. Voting Items: Motion to approve previous meeting minutes - Motion Passed

### 3. Treasurer's Report - Brenna Davis

- Additional donations were received after the Principal's last email with a link to Direct Giving. Money raised is up to \$16,165.
- Planners sales are still bringing in some dollars.
- Main expenses this month are administrative costs, software and teacher classroom supplies.
- Families continue to contribute from their groceries purchases at Kroegers. PTO will send a communication on how to sign up or switch schools, if needed.
- PTO to explore additional income from selling messages on the school's marquee. \$50 per message. Considering special pricing for students to buy messages for teammates/classmates with prior approval from the principal.

### 4. Fundraising Report - Kristina Brown

- Direct Giving Campaign: 100% of this donation gets back to our students, teacher, staff and school. We have matched so far the dollar amount that was raised last year. At this point we have decided to add another fundraiser.
- "Step it Up" Fundraiser is a 2-week campaign after Fall break. It runs October 16th - 30th.
  - Students put in 10 emails in their fundraising student portal and ask outside the community. There are prizes for students who participate and bring in donations.
  - The goal is to raise \$15K.
  - There will be two student assemblies for 7th and 8th grades in the courtyard.
  - The fundraiser will have a big event of celebration called "Day of Awesomeness". This event will be during school hours on November 14th (Early

Release day). PTO needs 12 volunteers and trash cans for this event. Please contact Kristina Brown [kbrown4110@gmail.com](mailto:kbrown4110@gmail.com)

- Fall Dance: Almost 600 students voted and chose the Halloween Costume theme.
  - Event is on Friday October 20th from 6pm-8pm.
  - There will be a DJ, raffle prizes and incentives to dance.
  - Tickets are \$10 /each with pre-sale at lunch.
  - There will not be outside vendors. Student Clubs will run food booths to earn money to fund their own clubs.
- Giving Days Sidewinder PTO partners with a few local businesses to Give Back a percentage (10-30%) of their DSMS sales to our school.
  - Leo's Ice Cream on Friday 09/29 right after school outside the front gate
  - Nautical Bowl on Friday 10/13 right after school outside the front gate
  - Early Release Day: Bird Call on Wednesday 10/25 from 11am - 10pm
  - Early Release Day: Nautical Bowl on Wednesday, 10/25 right after school outside the front gate
  - Early Release Day: Bird Call on Thursday 10/26 from 11am - 10pm
  - Leo's Ice Cream on Friday 09/29 right after school outside the front gate
  - Kendra Scott on Friday 12/01 from 5:00pm - 7:00pm (in-store and online purchases)
- Shop Sidewinder Spiritwear: Order online and have your items shipped right to you! There are great T-shirts, water bottles, tote bags, and new hoodies! Click [HERE](#) to place your order.

## 5. Volunteer Opportunities

- Fall Dance: PTO needs a planning committee for this dance. If you want to participate, please send an email to Kristina Brown [kbrown4110@gmail.com](mailto:kbrown4110@gmail.com). First planning meeting via ZOOM on Monday 10/02.
- Other volunteer opportunities: Revamp the outdoor space with fresh paint to energize students.

## 6. Teacher's Report

### Mr Hartzel (STEAM-Engineering)

- Thank you PTO for your help to teachers. PTO will cover the cost of the 4 garden beds purchased to improve the school campus with the help of a Boy Scout working towards his Eagle Scout Award.

### Ms Douglas (English 8th)

- There is a list of projects popping up. One of them is the Choice Reading Novel project. It is unique to see students' own interpretation of books.

## **7. Principal's Report - Ms Knaeble**

- Exciting news, DSMS has been selected to test the District's Emergency new program. There will be updating the emergency speaker with signage (media center, front and back office)
- Four teachers on campus are testing new large 17" screens to connect to their doc cams.
- Festival Sports was held last weekend for the Girls' Softball & Boys' Basketball teams. It was great to see the camaraderie and exciting to see the girls softball take the winning prize home. Upcoming Festivals Track, Volleyball and Wrestling.
- Pep Assemblies are back to school. The first one will be 10/26 to celebrate Girls' Softball & Boys' Basketball teams and 12/08 Track.
- NJHS - National Junior Honor Society induction happened in the month of September.
- Conferences are two nights in October (10/23 and 10/24) from 4pm-7pm. There will be a google sign up.
- At the 2nd School Council meeting there was an interest to get more math in the school's master schedule. Principal will be seeking input to make a decision by January for next school year.

## **8. UPC Report - Ariday Acosta**

- No updates to report. Next meeting on 09/27. 9am-10am general meeting and 10am-11am presentation of Who is Who in PV Schools. Program directors will explain what they do and how it impacts our schools.
- Upcoming: Gifted Middle School Event 09/28 6pm-7pm and Special Education 10/19 6:30pm-8pm with Linda Taylor - Director of Special Education both at District Office.

## **9. Additional Items discussed:**

- Garden improvements are happening.
- We love our school family clean up day will be Saturday 11/18 7am-12pm. It can be tied to PE equipment donations to school.
- Teacher Conference meal - Sweetwater School. 10/23 for 28 teachers. A sign up genius will be set up to ask for meal donations.

Questions?

- Would PTO consider doing fundraising for school clubs? PTO to further discuss it.
- Can we push our PTO Social Media presence? PTO Looking for a volunteer that can do this.

Meeting adjourned at 6:56pm

**Next PTO Meetings: Thursday October 19<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm and**

**Monday November 20<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm (ZOOM ONLY)**



## Desert Shadows Middle School - PTO Meeting Minutes – 10/19/2023

Meeting called to order at 5:42pm, participants (9 in-person, 3 Zoom)

### 1. President's Report - Chantal Hause

We launched our second fundraising campaign. PTO also wants to give another Spiritwear push during conference week. You can always shop Sidewinder Spiritwear online. Click [HERE](#) to place your order.

### 2. Voting Items: Motion to approve previous meeting minutes - Motion Passed

### 3. Treasurer's Report - Brenna Davis

- There have been additions to the donations, up to \$16,793. Other than that, not much has changed.

### 4. Fundraising Report - Kristina Brown

- Step it Up Fundraiser (October 16th - 30th). This way of fundraising creates layers of raising money for the school reaching out of our network. Almost 300 students have created a portal and sent 10+ emails and shared on social media. We have raised almost 27K so far. Prizes will be delivered to students at the end of October.

"Day of Awesomeness" celebration is on November 14th, (Early release). We need a few volunteers from 8am to 11am on the DSMS field. Click [HERE](#) to sign up.

- Fall Dance (Friday October 20th) 6pm-8pm. It has been decided that dinner is included with the cost of the ticket. (Pizza, chips, water). Choir Club will be selling popsicles and ice cream sandwiches. There will be a photo booth, DJ, game stations, and raffle tickets for Apple AirPods, Gift cards for Lululemon and Game Stop, Black Rock and SkyZone Jump passes.

We still need a few volunteers for the dance. Click [HERE](#) to volunteer.

- Upcoming Giving Days

October 25th - Nautical Bowls in front of the school at 12pm (Early release)

October 26th - Leo's Ice Cream in front of the school at 12pm (Early release)

On both days October 25th and 26th, Bird Call 11am-close.

### 5. Volunteer and Support Opportunities

- "We love our school family clean up day" will be Saturday 11/18 7am-12pm. Students and their families can volunteer. PE equipment donations to school will be accepted.



- Support Sweetwater Community School Conference meal for 28 teachers on 10/23. Not a lot of contributions on the sign up so far. Another email to be sent out to families with a reminder to contribute. Click [HERE](#) to sign up.
- Cozies for a cause donations ending this week. Maybe next year we could have it closer to Thanksgiving. Ask a club if they would like to maybe run it.

## 6. Teachers' Report

Ms Kate (via zoom) said that everything is going well. Thank you PTO for all you do.

From Ms Magnusson (ELL and Computer Science); we are wrapping up the quarter and posting grades. Looking forward to conference week to talk to parents about their students' progress.

How will you do the class competition from Step It up fundraising? We will bring to the classrooms with the highest donations the "unofficial mascot" Alien inflatable.

Ms Glinka wanted to share that over 90% of assignments in her class were turned in on time this quarter.

## 7. Principal's Report - Ms Knaeble

- Great things are happening this week. Step It Up assembly, choir students went to Broadway Under the Stars at HHS, Ceremony of this year's NJHS inductees, meetings with parents and volunteers for upcoming trips to 8th grade to Washington DC in November and Choir to California in spring. Very exciting, the Board just approved two more trips this year for NJHS to San Diego and Band to Disney. Also international trips are in the works for some school clubs.
- Conferences are next week, Monday and Tuesday October 23rd and 24th from 4pm-7pm. 7th grade and Electives in the Gym and 8th grade and SPED in the Cafeteria. Some math teachers are sending sign-ups earlier. There will be some teachers only available for one of the two nights. They will send a communication to parents.
- The School Council meeting this week will discuss a possible change of school schedule for next year increasing time for math. More information to come in the next two weeks.
- Two asks for PTO
  - 1) If there can be dollar support with cameras in school if no bond money comes through.
  - 2) If PTO can help with a shaded area for outdoor seating for lunch.
- Ms Bell also wanted to share that Softball Girls is undefeated 2 years in a row. 7th there was an appeal but Sidewinders came on top. Softball Boys are still waiting to know more tomorrow. There is a Pep Assembly on October 26th, softball and basketball teams, Sidewinder singers, Instruments NJHS will be acknowledged.

## 8. UPC Report

- Meeting on Special Education on October 18th
- UPC is looking for volunteers for District Committees. Below is a link to the general interest form UPC has for committees as well as the interest form that is specific to a current committee. Currently, the K-12 Supplemental Resources Committee has a spot available! [Committee Interest Form](#)
- Project Search is collecting Business Clothes for Title I High School students that will work at Mayo Clinic.
- Ballots for the upcoming Bond Election can be dropped off at the District office.
- Fingerprinting for volunteers can now be done at any time at the District office.
- VIP Volunteer available to professionals that can tutor specially at title 1 schools for math and reading.

## 9. Additional Items discussed

- No updates on Garden at this time.

Questions?

**Next PTO Meeting: Monday November 20<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm (ZOOM ONLY)**



## Desert Shadows Middle School - PTO Meeting Minutes – 11/20/2023

Meeting called to order at 5:31pm, participants 13 (Zoom Only)

### 1. President's Report - Chantal Hause

We were busy with a lot of things going on in October and November. Extra curricular activities, student trip to D.C, Fall Party and Fundraising.

### 2. Voting Items: Motion to approve previous meeting minutes - Motion Passed

### 3. Treasurer's Report - Brenna Davis

- We continue to get money from student planners and donations from PE Uniforms. We are waiting to receive a check from Step It up fundraising. There has been classroom supplies expenses.
- There is a total income of \$31,755 and a total expenses of \$5,311.88. Some expense receipts still need to be turned in from one of the dinner nights during conference week and a couple of expenses from early in the school year.
- Requests from teachers are coming in for Spooky Science. There is no line on the budget for that, we will include it under Classroom Supplies.

Principal Knaeble suggested that maybe for next year's budget to look at the reimbursement form so that it can be updated to match the expensed items.

### 4. Fundraising Report and Volunteer Opportunities- Kristina Brown

- Fundraising Recap: Busy months of October and November with Step It up fundraising, we raised over \$43,000, the school gets 50% back. The celebration of Day of Awesomeness was great and students had a good time. Thank you to the wonderful group of volunteers that helped that day.
- The Fall Party was well attended, with over 400 students. Suggestions for next year to increase the amount of water bottles and shorten the wait time at the check in lines.

We are looking to have a Committee and Coordinator for the Spring Dance. Dates to be announced in the next PTO meeting in January.

- Upcoming Giving Days
  - Kendra Scott Giving Day Friday, December 1 from 5-7pm in-store at Kendra Scott, Scottsdale Quarter location and mention Desert Shadows Middle School Give Back Day at checkout for 20% of your purchase to go directly back to DSMS. You can also shop online at [kendrascott.com](http://kendrascott.com) on

December 1 & 2 using code GIVEBACK-FFECP at checkout. Click [HERE](#) to see the invite and more details.

- During the month of December on alternative Fridays, we will have vendors in front of the school after dismissal.

- Shop Sidewinder Spirit Wear this Holiday Season. Click [HERE](#) to place your order.

#### **5. Teachers' Report - Ms. Magnusson (ELL and Computer Science)**

A lot going on and gearing up for the end of semester and posting grades. 8th graders took the Civics test last week, waiting to get the results. Starting to look at other tests such as the ELA test for all students before the end of the school year. Thinking about AASA testing, having school goals and all teachers will look into ways to help improve the math scores.

#### **6. Principal's Report - Ms Knaeble**

- 8th grade Civics test, explanation about the error in Mrs Reese's classroom. Parents were notified that students will have to retake the test due to a browser not being used properly under a secured area.
- Lots of ½ days between conference week and teacher professional development. We are focused on working on our school success plan, all departments are involved in making sure our students are successful.
- Item included in the bond election will probably take place in the school year 2024 or 2025.
- Nice shout out from Sweetwater School on the dinner donated by DSMS PTO for Parent /Teacher conference week.
- Fundraising was very successful with parents' involvement.
- As a member of the District's Emergency Response Team, I wanted to share that they are looking to implement a barcode on the ID of students for potential good uses and to streamline food purchases and bus service.
- There were a few prizes left over from the Step It Up fundraising and PTO donated them to Roadrunner for their PBIS program and to another title one school for their Holiday give list.
- On Veterans Day Boy Scouts cleaned the garden, repainted planters and planted new plants on them.
- 7th Grade World Culture Fair took place during Spirit Week and Mrs Bell made announcements that week.
- PV School Education Foundation donated \$25 gift cards for teachers. They will be hidden on Mickey hats throughout the school. The teacher that finds a winning hat earns a gift card.

## 7. UPC Report

- Programming: "Student Mental Health" presented by Not My Kid, and all other UPC programming, can be viewed on [YouTube](#).
- Membership: Thank you to the schools that donated to help support the work of the Outreach Committee!
- Outreach: UPC hosted a breakfast for the Transportation Department to show our appreciation for the work they do to transport our students safely.
- If you are planning to attend an Arizona Cardinals' game, please use and share the UPC [link](#).
- Gifted Education: "Learning from a Former Perfectionist," DJ Graham. Tuesday, December 5th, 6:00-7:30 PM. District Training Center
- Elementary ELA Curriculum Adoption Committee: The 60 day Community Review of materials has begun. Visit the District Offices, during business hours, to view a limited amount of materials. For more information and to view the full curriculum online, visit the district [webpage](#).
- Save the Date: School Vendor Showcase- Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at Paradise Valley High School
- Next UPC meeting will be on Wednesday, January 24th at 9am.

## 8. Additional Items discussed

PTO would like to do:

Teacher Holiday gift card drive (last week before break)

- Ask parents if they could donate Gift cards with \$25 value for teachers and staff. Principal will provide a list with teachers' preferences.
- Gift cards can be brought to the front office by Friday Dec.15th and labeled PTO. (Don't forget to take advantage of the 4x Fuel points at Fry's Marketplace)

Teacher Holiday breakfast (Thursday or Friday before break)

- PTO/Parents will decorate the Teacher's Lounge. (Theme to be decided)
- In addition to the breakfast, PTO/Parents will provide a hot beverage bar. Hot cocoa, Keurig Coffee pods, flavored creamers, Teas, condiments.
- There will be a Sign Up genius if anyone wants to donate to the beverage bar.
- Deadline for beverage bar donations is Friday Dec.15th. Please bring it to the front office and label it PTO.

Questions?

Is there a plastic bag drive at school and where is the collection bin? Yes, there is. School is collecting until late spring and the collection bin is at the front lobby. If the school collects enough bags, we will earn a free bench.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:21pm**

**Next PTO Meeting: Thursday January 25<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm**



## Desert Shadows Middle School - PTO Meeting Minutes – 1/25/2024

Meeting called to order at 5:34pm, participants 7 in person - 8 online

- **President's Report - Chantal Hause**

Welcome. Nothing to add at this time.

- **Voting Items:** Motion to approve previous meeting minutes - Motion Passed

- **Treasurer's Report - Brenna Davis**

- We received the check from Step It up fundraising. Over \$21K
- As far as expenses, we are doing good, expenses were low. They were teacher's meals, choir funds and teachers' supplies.

- **Fundraising Report and Volunteer Opportunities- Kristina Brown**

- We are looking to have a Coordinator for the Spring Dance and volunteers the night of the dance. Tentative date is Friday 04/26 (to be confirmed). We need to get creative to raise some funds, especially the school clubs. Choice of 3 dance themes will be put out for students to choose from. Email communication for the dance will go out after Spring break.
- No upcoming Giving Days.
- Vendors will return soon on half days and alternative Fridays in front of the school after dismissal.
- Shop Sidewinder Spirit Wear. Click [HERE](#) to place your order.

Question if there will be spirit wear available during the summer. Principal Knaeble said that the Sidewinder Day for incoming 7th graders will include a flier with a link included to buy any spirit wear and school planners.

- **Teachers' Report - Ms. Magnusson (ELL and Computer Science)**

- Teachers met this week on the early release day to look at data and see how to improve students' scores in AASA. Teachers will be giving their recommendations for high school.
- Wednesday 01/31 is Spring Parent-Teacher conference night 4pm-7pm in the cafeteria.

- **Principal's Report - Ms Knaeble**

- On 2/22 Fifty 8th grade students randomly selected will take the NAEP test for Math / English (National Assessment Education Program). It provides important information about student achievement and learning experiences in various subjects. Parents of students selected will be notified.
- AZELLA proficiency in English assessment will be March 4th and 5th. There will not be announcements over the PA those 2 days of testing. Ms Magnusson is the point teacher.
- AASA testing is after spring break.
  - 3/26 AZSCI 8th grade Part 1 and 3/27 AZSCI 8th Part 2
  - 4/8 AASA ELA - WRITING (8th grade only)
  - 4/9 AASA ELA - Writing (7th grade only)
  - 4/10 AASA ELA - WRITING Make-up
  - 4/11 AASA ELA (Part 1)
  - 4/12 AASA ELA (Part 2)
  - 4/15 AASA Math (Part 1 - Odd Periods)
  - 4/16 AASA Math (Part 1 - Even Periods)
  - 4/17 AASA Math (Part 2 - Odd Periods)
  - 4/18 AASA Math (Part 2 - Even Periods)
  - Make up days 4/23, 4/24 and 4/24
- Registration: Open enrollment for early bird was December 1st. Over 50 students are on the waiting list. DSMS is waiting to have a final number of teachers to open up registration for more students. A staffing survey was sent out for plans for next year, potentially losing a couple of ESP. The majority of staff will return. No vacancies expected. Flexibility to fill the open position for Spanish Science teacher for the DLSI program that was not filled this year.
  - Incoming 7th graders. Counselors visited feeder schools. Enrollment for 7th grade is up to 400 students. Yellow registration packet for incoming students.
  - Current 7th grade students need to turn in the green form registration for 8th grade. 7th grade students can be recommended for Honors for next school year.
  - Current 8th graders will receive next week registration cards for



High School registration.

- Multiple new ideas for electives for next year based on enrollment.
- Building Updates:
  - Currently 4 new speakers are being installed. These speakers will uplink messages from phones. (1 in the library, 1 in the teacher's lounge, 2 in the front office).
  - The portable on campus will get torn down and it will be replaced with concrete and an awning.
  - Art Academy works on inspirational messages that can be displayed throughout the school.
  - School will get new paint, new carpet and a new courtyard for next year.
- Field trips
  - Choir will perform at the Forum in Anaheim and go to Disneyland the first week of March.
  - Band will go to Disneyland and work with producers at the end of March.
  - NJHS trip was canceled. The cost went up after some students withdrew. The reason for the high increase in price is the buses. There will be an alternative trip for NJHS.
- End of Year day trips:
  - 4/29 - 7th grade will go to Castles and Coasters. Ask parents to send lunch with students so they can maximize the time of fun. Over 1 hour long lines to order food.
  - 5/21 - 8th grade Sunsplash. Feedback from last year is that there is not enough time because district buses need to be back early for school dismissal routes, maybe it can be extended if charter buses are considered.
  - Maybe PTO funding can be done for these day trips using charter buses and consider extending the hours of the trip.
- **UPC Report**
  - No notes from UPC. But Principal Knaeble shared that the district is down by 1,000 students which also creates a deficit. It is a part of the conversation and a lot of school funding is not expected. Two more weeks until the final decision is

made for the school closings. Dr Bales and Dr Jeras both retiring this year.

- **Additional Items discussed**

- PTO will offer student agendas again next year.
- PTO approves the cost of guest speaker, Corey Greenwood for February. (tentative date 2/13 early release day). To be decided what line of the budget will the expense fall under.
- Yearbook reminder. Buy it now, the school will not have extras.
- Suggestion for PTO to have pre printed envelopes for money donations for next year. Let's start thinking about a start package for next year.
- PTO to start having conversation for the board in next month's meeting. Two important positions to be filled (VP and Communications).
- Suggestions to bring back Corporate Sponsors for next year. Idea well received and possibly creating different tiers for corporate sponsors.
- Very successful weekend for the Festival of Sports. The teams won championship.

Questions?

What is the deadline for Academies registration for incoming 7th grade students? Is it possible to have a checklist from each academy? Principal's answer is she will try to do a better job sending information shared with school's principals and online as well. Thinking of going digital next year for registration.

Meeting adjourned at 6:21pm

**Next PTO Meeting: Tuesday February 20<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm**



## Desert Shadows Middle School - PTO Meeting Minutes – 2/20/2024

Meeting called to order at 5:31pm, participants 6 in person - 5 online

- **President's Report - Chantal Hause**

Welcome. Not much to add, we received great feedback from the visit of guest speaker Corey Greenwood.

- **Voting Items:** Motion to approve previous meeting minutes - Motion Passed

- **Treasurer's Report - Brenna Davis**

- We received expenses that had been budgeted. We are waiting to get actual income from the Kendra Scott event. Considering a different date for next school year.
- Expense of the guest speaker paid under the line Principal's Choice.
- We are over \$49K for income and our expenses are over \$21K
- Principal asks if the PTO form for expense requests can be updated where categories are aligned to what the current budget lines show. Yes, the form will be updated.

- **Fundraising Report and Volunteer Opportunities- Kristina Brown**

- We have signed up with Step It Up fundraising for next school year.
- Vendors: Nautical Bowls (school gets back 10%) will be at school after dismissal on 3/1, 3/28, 4/21, 4/26, 5/10, 5/23 (early release at 12pm). PTO will be looking for other options for vendors at an upcoming School Vendors Open House.
- Giving Days: Tentative two more nights before the end of school year.
- Spring Dance NEW DATE is Friday April 12th. We need a dance committee and volunteers (please contact Kristina Brown). Principal will ask the Student Council and Clubs if they want to manage food/drinks for the dance. Maybe an option is to have a food truck. Dance theme to be decided, we like the idea of a Semi-formal Dance.
- Sidewinder Spirit Wear. PTO to consider new options/vendors for next year.  
To buy now, click [HERE](#) to place your online order.

- **Teachers' Report - Ms. Magnusson (ELL and Computer Science)**

- Teachers are full steam ahead for spring testing AASA. They also worked on progress grades last week. Mad dash to the end of the quarter.

- **Principal's Report - Ms Knaeble**

- District visited last week to choose the new paint of the exterior of the school. The color chosen is a light gray that will replace the green paint. Painting will start before the end of the school year and will be completed this summer.
- In addition to Bond funding, the school is adding 5 new security cameras and would like to purchase a sound system for the cafetorium.
- We need a school council representative for next school year (2-year term). Ideally an incoming 7th grader parent. Meetings are once a month.
- Following PTO request, the current items on the school wish list are:
  - Sound system (valued at \$15K) asking if PTO could cover 50%
  - iPads for sound system (2 or 3)
  - PBIS prices for 3rd and 4th quarters. (There are monthly pizza drawings)
  - E-Hall pass (valued at \$3K)
  - New trash cans and more picnic tables for the lunch area. A new canopy will be installed and some picnic tables will be relocated there.
  - For the PE line on the budget, volleyball nets and footballs.
  - New stools to outfit a science classroom.
  - Classroom supplies.

- **UPC Report**

- The next UPC meeting is on 2/21/24 focused on Exceptional School Programming.
- There is a School Vendor Showcase at the end of the month.
- An interim superintendent will start in July, Jason Reynolds and will take over for current Superintendent Troy Bales.
- There are 3 schools closing Vista Verde Middle School, Desert Springs Preparatory and Sunset Canyon Elementary. School boundaries will be redrawn. Principal Knaeble also said that the wait list has been opened to more than 60 students to enroll for next school year.

- **Additional Items discussed**

- PTO Board Open positions, (VP/President Elect, Fundraising and Treasurer). Please contact PTO if interested. Board will transfer these positions at the May meeting. Principal will reach out to feeder schools to contact their PTO and parents to invite incoming 7th grade parents to come to a PTO meeting this spring.
- Other positions also available are Communications and Hospitality.

No additional questions

Meeting adjourned at 6:31pm

**Next PTO Meeting: Tuesday March 19<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm**



## Desert Shadows Middle School - PTO Meeting Minutes – 3/19/2024

Meeting called to order at 5:31pm, participants 6 in person - 4 online

- **President's Report - Chantal Hause**

Current vendor for spirit wear has agreed to continue to be our vendor next year. It will be simplified and become more self-sufficient.

- **Voting Items:** Motion to approve previous meeting minutes - Motion Passed

- **Treasurer's Report - Brenna Davis**

- A few major things came through. One item is the student planners for next year. The expense needs to be put in the budget (a little over \$3000). There is a planner line item, the cost will be pretty much the same and we will get the money back once school starts.
- Classroom supplies are significantly under budget
- Income over \$41K and expenses over \$22K. Not a huge change.
- Teachers' deadline to submit expenses receipts is April 5th.

- **Fundraising Report and Volunteer Opportunities- Kristina Brown**

- No more giving days until next school year
- Vendors: Nautical Bowls will be in the front of the school on Thursday, March 28. There are two sizes, 3 flavors and a price range of \$8-\$10.

Additional dates are April 12th, April 16th, May 10th and May 23rd.

- Spring Dance.
  - Friday April 12 from 6pm-8pm.
  - Students will be able to vote for a theme. Google form to go out this week.
  - There is a small committee for the dance and we will need approximately 15 volunteers for the night of the dance.
  - School clubs decide whether they will sell food or if there will be food vendors.

- We will get a different DJ to change things up.
- Maybe have the party at a different location in the school.

Gym? Cafeteria? To consider how hot and loud it can get inside any of those options.

- Teacher Appreciation Week. May 6-10. We need a volunteer coordinating it.

- **Teachers' Report - Ms. Magnusson (ELL and Computer Science)**

- March 20 is the last day for grades to be entered. There are still a few teachers finishing entering grades, most are already done.
- Starting standardized testing. Prep in class is already taking place. Things are going great, the beginning of the 4th quarter is always a great start.

- **Principal's Report - Ms Bell (on behalf of Ms Knaeble)**

- Thank you PTO for your monetary donation for the Sound System in the Cafetorium. It will be up and running hopefully before the end of April.
- Looking also for Ipads to help scoring music (Valued \$15K)
- Festival of Sports. The All Star season starts next week (Girls' Basketball and Boys' Wrestling).
- State Testing - TESTING DATES

March 26 & 27- 8TH GRADE AZ SCIENCE

April 8- 8th Grade WRITING

April 9- 7th Grade WRITING

April 11 & 12- 7th & 8th Grades ELA PART 1 & PART 2

April 15-18- 7th & 8th Grades MATH PART 1 & PART 2

Reminder that students should not have doctor appointments during State testing dates. If they are pulled out while taking a test, there is no make up session for that and the test gets invalidated.

The AzSCI is the statewide Science achievement test for Arizona students in Grades 5, 8 and 11 and is administered in three parts. All 8th grade students will take the AzSCI Test on March 26, and March 27.

- MARCH 27 Period 1 will last from 8:00-9:51, all other class periods will be shorter in the morning. Lunch times and afternoon classes will remain as normally scheduled.

AASA is the statewide achievement test for Arizona students in Grades 3-8. All Arizona public school students in Grades 3-8 will take the grade level AASA assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

- All 8th grade students will take the AASA Writing Test in their ELA

Classroom on April 8. All students will report to Period 2 as their first class. They will go in order of class periods, and end the day in Period 1.

- All 7th grade students will take the AASA Writing Test in their ELA Classroom on April 9. All students will take the AASA ELA Reading Test in their ELA Classroom on April 11 and April 12.
- All students will take the AASA Math Test in their Math Classroom on April 15 through April 18.
- The week of APRIL 15-18 students will test on two days with their math teacher. On Monday and Wednesday students will attend class periods 1,3, 5, 6, and 7. On Tuesday and Thursday students will attend periods 2, 4, 5, 6, and 8. Class times will be twice as long so that testing can be completed in the students math classroom with their math teacher.

Donations are needed for testing by Tuesday, March 26, 2024. Donations of hard candy, lifesavers and mints can be delivered to the front office. [Click here](#) to donate.

All students are required to have wired headphones for testing.

Ms Saely also wanted to share that Mimic testing has shown growth for our students.

The AASA website gives resources with links to testing format with answers for practice.

- Teachers and staff are focused on preparing students for testing, showing them testing strategies and skills.

- **UPC Report**

- Next meeting is on March 27 and it is about Combating bullying with kindness.
- The committee for literature is closing on April 25.
- Looking for donations for their PROM boutique (gifts cards for restaurants and attire). They can be dropped off at district.

- **Additional Items discussed**

- School was able to order new equipment for sports
- The new sound system for school is Wifi
- Garden is in full bloom. Students are visiting with Mr Hartzel. It is a Natural Garden Escape.
- Choir had a great Forum competition before spring break in California and each division that competed earned Gold.



- Band is also going this week to California with an opportunity to score music at Disney.
- 50th birthday Celebration for next school year. Suggestions/Ideas:
  - Revamp the spirit wear with a 50th logo
  - Open house to celebrate in the fall with Alumni. Maybe a Weekend celebration.
  - Opportunity to sponsor classrooms (tiles/bricks from donors on campus)
  - Time capsule from the 80's opening ceremony and possibly creating a new Time capsule for the future.
- PTO Board Open positions to be selected by May and ready for next school year.
  - VP / President Elect (ideally a 7th grade parent for a 2 year term)
  - Treasurer
  - Fundraising
  - Communications
  - Hospitality (Especially for Teacher Appreciation)

Questions:

Will PTO provide snacks/lunch and beverages for the 7th grade field trip To Castles and Coasters on April 29?

Yes. Pizza and beverages will be provided for lunch when they return at 1:30pm.

Also snacks and beverages will be provided for the field trip.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38pm

**Next PTO Meetings: Tuesday April 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm**

**Tuesday May 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm**



## Desert Shadows Middle School - PTO Meeting Minutes – 4/16/2024

Meeting called to order at 5:31pm, participants 10 in person - 0 online

- **President's Report - Chantal Hause**

A few more weeks until the end of the school year. Congratulations to the organizing team of the Spring Dance. We have received great feedback.

- **Voting Items:** Motion to approve previous meeting minutes - Motion Passed.

- **Treasurer's Report - Shannon Cucci**

- Donations stayed the same.
- Fundraising totals are close to what it was budgeted.
- \$900 left in the principal's discretionary account.
- Teachers' deadline to submit expenses receipts was April 5th.
- PTO will cover the expense of charter a bus for the 8th grade celebration. Students will pay for their tickets and their food.
- PTO to decide how much money it will be carried over. We need to anticipate expenses coming in at a later date in the summer.

- **Fundraising Report and Volunteer Opportunities- Kristina Brown**

- Vendors: Nautical Bowls upcoming dates April 26, May 10th and May 23rd (early release and last day of school at 11:45am).

Looking into having a Smoothie day to invite families to go to their location. To be decided.

- Spring Dance Recap
  - We had 220 students, less than last year. It covered most of the expenses, \$200 short. To consider for next year a different month (March or May) and maybe pre-sale tickets before the dance to get more students to come to the dance. The cafeteria was a good location and the eating area in the outside corridor for food. Need to create separation between tables to avoid students jumping over them. Smooth check in

and good feedback about the DJ. Also, consider a second food option for students with food allergy.

- Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week. May 6-10. There will be an email sent to parents asking them to help.
- Spirit wear: in the process of changing it for next year.. More simplified and self-sufficient. Adding a 50th birthday wear with logo and also a design for teachers t-shirt or polo shirt and sweaters.

- **Teachers' Report - Ms. Magnusson (ELL and Computer Science)**

- We are in testing time, so It has been the focus. The semester is coming to an end. Feedback from testing, 100% students took AZ Science and 99% took the ELA. Also this year students took testing seriously and studied and got prepared for it.
- Progress grades were turned in on Monday and will be posted at the end of the week.

- **Principal's Report - Ms Knaeble**

- Human Growth day is on May 5th, DLSI AAPPL testing is on 5/9 and the last installment payment for the DC trip (2024-2025) is on 5/10.
- PTO will cover the expense of 2 Ipads to support the new sound system.
- On testing days week we experimented with lunch combining 7th and 8th grades together. It was smooth.
- Busy setting up for testing, working on scheduling. Open enrollment is up. Close to 800 students enrolled. Over 400 students enrolled in 7th grade and 35 files to get processed.
- There are open positions to work at DSMS, support personnel, resource , social studies. School is getting another part time counselor.

- **UPC Report**

- Next meeting is next week, the topic will be managing transitions.
- There is a student job fair on 4/17 at Shadow Mountain for high school students.
- Executive Board elections are on 4/24. The bylaws are posted on the UPC website.

- **Additional Items discussed**

- Purchased the new sound system for school and will be installed next week. Thank you to the PTO from the Governing Board for the purchase.
- Ipads need to be purchased. PTO put it into vote and the motion was approved to purchase.
- PTO Board Open positions to be elected in May's PTO meeting
  - VP / President Elect (ideally a 7th grade parent for a 2 year term)
  - Treasurer
  - Fundraising (It could be a co-team possibly)
- PTO Non Board Open positions
  - Communications
  - Hospitality (Especially for Teacher & Staff Appreciation)
  - Special Events team
- 7th Science Lab and 8th grade EOY celebration
- 50th birthday
- Calendar for PTO meeting scheduling for next year.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38pm

**Next PTO Meetings: Tuesday May 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm**



## Desert Shadows Middle School - PTO Meeting Minutes – 5/14/2024

Meeting called to order at 5:31pm, participants 9 in person - 3 online

- **President's Report - Chantal Hause**

Teacher appreciation week was a success. Teachers and staff were very appreciative.

- **Voting Items:** Motion to approve previous meeting minutes - Motion Passed.

- **Treasurer's Report - Brenna Davis**

- Pending payments from vendors, we are still getting money from them. Certain days for some vendors were not as good as others, making less than expected.
- Dollar amount from spirit wear this year was very small. The QR code campaign did not work well. Better in person for next school year to increase sales. Waiting for the check from the company. The used PE shirts will no longer be available next year for purchase.
- The line for Principal's choice is under budget, just a small amount has been allocated so far for the sound system and motivational speaker.
- Hospitality line is on budget but there are more receipts coming.
- PBIS line is under budget. 4th quarter prizes have not been purchased yet (\$150 Lululemon and Nike gift cards and an assortment of smaller \$ amount gift cards).
- This year the school has opted out to do Honors Awards for students. Departmental Teacher Honor Awards are moving forward.
- Classroom supplies line, we have only received a small amount of receipts of expenses from teachers.
- Since our funds income for the year is over 50K, the IRS requires that next year taxes are done in a different form (longer paperwork) submitted by October 15th 2024.
- Expenses are at \$46,856, just a little bit under.

- **Fundraising Report - Kristina Brown**

- Vendors: Waiting to receive a few more payments from some vendors.
  - Nautical Bowls on May 23rd (early release and last day of school at 11:45am).
  
- **Teachers' Report - Ms. Magnusson (ELL and Computer Science)**
  - Very appreciative and excited for all the good food and gifts during Teacher Appreciation Week. Big Thank you to PTO.
  - Teachers are wrapping up at this point and getting their grades done. Very happy with the students, it has been a good year.
  
- **Principal's Report - Ms Knaeble**
  - Feeling thankful and cared for by our PTO during Teacher Appreciation week. Thanks for all the time and effort that goes into making this happen.
  - On Thursday May 16, we will start collecting students' computers. We need parents volunteers to come and help any time for how long they are able to.
  - Yearbooks are here and students will get them next week.
  - 2024-2025 Agendas order has been submitted.
  - On a personal note it has been a really great first year for me.
  - School Summer hours will start July 15th for two weeks Monday-Thursday 9am-3pm.
  - July 30th is Sidewinder Camp for incoming 7th graders. 8th graders can volunteer to help out.
  - August 5th is the first day of the school year 2024-2025.
  
- **UPC Report**
  - Next meeting is Wednesday 5/15/24, the topic will be Closing Bell with Dr Bales.
  - Last Governing Board was last week and also the UPC recognition ceremony event where 11 teachers from DSMS were recognized.
  
- **Additional Items discussed**
  - PTO ELECTIONS

- PTO Board positions voted and approved.
  - President: Kristina Brown
  - Treasurer: Gardenia Flores
- PTO Non Board positions voted and approved.
  - Communications: Kristin Stauffer
- Open positions still open
  - PTO Board
    - VP / President Elect (ideally a 7th grade parent for a 2 year term)
    - Fundraising (It can be a co-team possibly)
  - PTO Non Board
    - Hospitality (Especially for Teacher & Staff Appreciation)
    - Special Events team
- Teacher and staff breakfast from PTO on Friday 5/24 at 8 in the cafetorium.
- PTO to work with the principal on the events calendar for next year. (Envelopes for new parents on Sidewinder Camp day, August 2 Staff breakfast)
- The walk around night tentative dates are July 30th or July 31.
- Curriculum Night on August 15.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38pm

**PTO Meetings for 2024-2025 to be announced in August.**