



## 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)**