



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 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 25th @ 5:30pm