



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 20th @ 5:30pm