



Desert Shadows Middle School - PTO Meeting Minutes – 9/24/2024

Meeting called to order at 5:31pm, participants 13 in person + 11 online

1. Welcome

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

3. President's Report - Kristina Brown

Just a couple of things

- a. We have been approved for insurance on our assets. The cost of a \$25,000 umbrella coverage is \$95 per year. We need to re-write the Bylaws.
- b. Due to the serious accidents that involved two high school students in the last weeks on Greenway and 56th, there is a Traffic Safety Roll Out task force at Horizon HS. It has had a successful response.
Parents from DSMS are welcome to join this task force to give feedback.

4. Treasurer's Report - Gardenia Flores

We are doing well. We are up to \$36,000 raised between direct giving and dine & donate nights. We also had some money back from the portrait rebate.

As far as expenses, we have so far up to \$6,000 in classroom supplies, administrative costs.

Also, part of the process of having insurance is that we need to have a monthly reconciliation of our budget and an extra person needs to do an audit every month.

5. Fundraising Report

○ Step It Up (Jolene Kutty)

This is our second year with this company. Last year we got back 50% of the total money raised. (\$21,000). This fundraising consists of students creating a log in into the Step It Up portal. It is personalized by student. They need to send texts or emails to their network of friends and family asking for a donation. 80% of the amount donated comes back to DSMS, 10% covers prizes and 10% covers running the fundraising.

We are ready to go. Kick off rally day is Tuesday October 15 (early release day) and there is a Day of Awesomeness celebration on November 19 (early release

day). Three hours of celebration to be decided by Ms Knaeble if it will be in 90 minutes blocks by grade or a different way.

This year PTO will pay independently for the inflatables for the celebration.

Quote is \$5,600 and with the discount applied comes down to \$2,400. Motion to approve this expense. Motion passed.

We need volunteers for the Golden Ticket Days and also the 3 hours of the Day of Awesomeness. Sign up to follow.

Consider maybe for next year moving towards more of a direct giving.

- **Passive fundraising-** Dine and Donate nights are happening once a month. We have raised \$480 so far. We have had two different vendors selling treats outside at the end of school. Looking for more options. We have a list of these events until December on the PTO website and will be posted on facebook. Also another way to raise money is with Box Tops and Fry's Community rewards. Make sure that families are signed up for Box Tops and scan their receipts after each purchase showing Box Tops products and they sign up with Fry's Rewards. So far we have received about \$200 back.
- **Spiritwear.** We have sold 25 items of spirit wear so far with a 10% back to the school. New items will be posted this fall. Suggestion of school implementing Spirit Day on Fridays. Ms Knaeble will look into it. You can order [HERE](#).
- **Business Sponsors.** We have 3 sponsors (Body Systems, Affiliated Pediatric Artistry and Orthodontics, Perfect Water Technologies Home Masters). The cost is \$750 per year. They are in the process of having their banners on display. We also have 1 in Kind sponsor (Crumble). This is a very philanthropic partner that has given the school up to \$900 worth of coupons. We will be doing a Dine & Donate evening with them in the future, as well as after school pop up and booth events.

6. **Communications & Social Media (Kristin Stauffer)**

It is going really well. Please make sure to follow us on facebook and like our posts on facebook and instagram.

7. **Volunteer Report (Sarah Cole)**

Currently we need volunteers for the following:

- 50th Anniversary Committee

- Fall Dance
- Step It Up

There will be a volunteer sign-up for each one of this.

You can also sign up online on our [PTO website](#) or send an email to sidewindervolunteers@gmail.com.

Thank you to all the volunteers!

8. Events

- **50th Anniversary Celebration** (Kim Gallagher): Saturday 11/23 1pm-4pm with theme “Rolling thru the Decades”. The budget for this event is \$7,000.
 - We have secured a mobile roller skating rink with a cost of \$2,500.
 - DJ cost is \$500
 - 5 backdrops representing decades with yearbooks, pictures, signing board
 - Interactive booths
 - Food vendors (Kona Ice, Crumble) with snacks with a cost
 - Gym will be opened where the school band and choirs will perform.
 - Activities with a cost such as face painting, glitter tattoos, balloon twisting

This is going to be a big volunteer day. Need volunteers for the following sub

Committees:

- Food
 - Promo adn PR
 - Purchasing
 - Tile Project
- **Fall Dance** (Alana Raizer): It is on Friday 10/18 6pm-8pm. 695 students voted and chose the theme of costume party.
 - It will be outside in the courtyard.
 - Front gate entry and Student ID is required. The dance is only for students of DSMS.
 - Food vendors are not secured yet. There will probably be a cost for the food.
 - DJ is secured
 - There will be game booths with prizes.
 - Volunteers needed (18-20 approx). Sign up to follow.

9. Hospitality (Cindy Sigona and Sarah Levin)

Pretty quiet now, we are getting ready for the next Professional Development day on October 15. Lunch will be served for 65 people. Considering options at the moment (Chipotle or Olive Garden).

Spread the word if you know people or have friends in the restaurant business to facilitate this type of breakfasts/lunches.

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

We are almost at the end of the quarter. Teachers are working on posting grades. Students need to complete final assignments, projects and finish incomplete homework. Check Infinite Campus to see what is missing. There are several teachers this week that will be going to the 8th grade Social Studies trip to Washington DC.

Teachers ask if the Hospitality Committee could also provide Kleenex and hand sanitizer in the cooler season months.

Ask for teachers to participate or attend the 50th Anniversary Celebration.

11. Principal's Report - Ms Knaeble

- Delay in responding to emails and in the process of getting caught up about the national social media hoax reporting a shooting in a list of schools for Friday 9/19. It was traced back to another event in Tucson last month. There were a variety of different things happening on unrelated events. There was no direct threat to our school. We have lots of procedures in place for students that have made mistakes in the past. School works with them. We have not had any students expelled in our school. There have been suspensions, to give another opportunity. If your child hears something, they need to report it, don't repost it. Students' agendas have anonymous tips information under the bullying section.
- We have practiced 2 lock down drills so far this year. We have scheduled a quarterly lock down drill. In November we will have a relocation drill where students and teachers learn situational awareness.
- We are finding out more vapes this year than in the past. We are working with students and families to provide more resources. We want to have a presentation about vaping for parents in the future. The cost is \$700 and it will come from the principal's choice line item. Maybe
- Festival Sports - Girls' Softball and Boys' Basketball (August 26 - September 20) was successful on most of the teams. First team game at Greenway. Our new cheerleading club will also be there. There are behavior expectations that need to be followed by students
- Homework club is still available Mon-Thu.
- Students are happy enjoying the outdoors and playing basketball and/or cornhole.

12. UPC Report - (Laura Hill & Kea Carota)

Meeting on 9/18. Questions on the floor were about vaping, school threats and mental health. There is a District Emergency Response Team (D.E.R.T). Committee and parents are welcome to join. There was a presentation on how to cope with depression and

suicide with offering of Crisis and National Suicide prevention resources. Students have a student life line on the back of their IDs.

Next meeting on 10/16 is about how to be the best advocate for your student. There will be a panel.

One more thing, Horizon Homecoming week is coming up. Watch for traffic. Their Drama Club is also having a play. The High School Student Committee is also looking for a parent to be involved in their work group.

Election Year, please register to vote. The school board has 3 seats on the ballot this year.

There is also a youtube channel where you can watch the recording afterwards.

13. Additional Items discussed

None

Questions:

- Can we make emphasis on the guidelines for Volunteer hours of Social studies students? Finding out some problems when volunteering at recent events in a neighboring elementary school. We will reach out to students to remind them of the expectations.
- Need to renew chaperone fingerprinting? No longer need to go to the district in person. Contact them and they will send an email with a form where the volunteer answers questions to renew.

Meeting adjourned at 7:22pm

Next PTO Meeting Tuesday October 22 at 5:30pm