



Desert Shadows Middle School - PTO Meeting Agenda – 8/25/2025

19 in person — 12 online

1. Welcome - Introductions of PTO
2. Voting Items: Motion to approve minutes from May meeting. Motion Passed
25/26 Budget: Motion Passed
3. President Report (Kristina)
 - Kim Gallagher is Spirit Wear Coordinator
4. Treasurer Report (Gardenia & Amy)
 - \$29,000 in our account - \$10k in savings account to make sure we have a cushion and for security.
 - Income: Reviewed various ways we raise money - see Budget for details. New: Marquee Birthday Messages
 - Expenses: Reviewed details of where we spend money. See Budget for details. Teachers receive teacher grants. We may charge for the Spring Dance if we don't raise enough through Direct Giving.
5. Communication and Social Media Report (Kristin)
 - We have a free Canva Pro Account for nonprofits!!
 - Ashley will help with Canva
 - Working on creating Google Workspace so that everything stays in one place and builds history
6. Volunteer Report (Sarah)
 - Huge thank you to our volunteers! We have a huge volunteer list of over 100, the sign ups went out and got filled fast. The next need is the fall dance. We will be doing the PBIS pizza delivery volunteer opportunity again this year as well.
7. Events Report
 - Fall Dance - October 24th - likely will be Halloween themed. DJ, photobooth, researching food options. Some clubs want to sell food for fundraising. Encourage kids to come to the dance, they have a blast.
8. Fundraising Report
 - Decided to do 1 fundraiser this year - just Direct Giving, not Step It Up.
 - If you haven't made your donation yet please do so at sidewinderpto.com/fundraising.

- We are at \$33,340 today between Direct Giving, Family Sponsors and Business Sponsors
- New this year we have Business Sponsors - \$350 includes banner, sponsoring staff meal, booth at curriculum night, social media post. Family Sponsors - \$200 (includes name on a banner and sponsoring a staff meal)
- Trying to get 48% participation, we are ahead of the percent from last year
- Ideas on how to promote: How money is spent, flashy graphics, Zelle, Fall Dance every one bring an item (Clorox Wipes, tissue, etc)
- How people give, in kind, supplies, lounge restock, corporate matching
- Business Sponsors - 18 Business Sponsors to date. Fill the Fence Campaign. \$300, PTO pays for the banner. Ask 3 business owners to become sponsors. E-mail going out focusing on business sponsors
- In kind - Restaurants donate a meal, over \$400. We print the banner for that business. Crumbl, Texas Roadhouse have said yes.
- Passive Fundraising - DSMS brings you customers, you give us a percent back. Kona Ice is coming soon. They will swap out their syrups to meet PVUSD requirements. Jump Night this Friday at Sky Zone, Grapes & Hops, and Berry Devine. Working on 2 pop-ups and 1-2 dine and donates per month. Kendra Scott tentatively scheduled for Dec 5th. Zin Burger scheduled for that night as well.
- Marquee - Birthday announcements - <https://sidewinderpto.com/fundraising> - messages need to be submitted 7 days prior.

9. Hospitality Report (Cindy & Sarah) -

- Team of 4 working on hospitality.
- The team is meeting to plan out the year, looking for restaurants to donate meals, and great reviews from staff about stocking the lounge.

10. Teachers Report

11. Principal Report

- Fully staffed. We have one posted for LFI, but technically we are staffed.
- Thank you to volunteers for Chromebook distribution. We will no longer collect them until they leave PVUSD. So much time saved!
- PBIS - revamped last year, new Pride Posters are up. Focusing on what we want students to do rather than what not to do.
- No cell phones on campus is a big hit, students are interacting and bring good energy
- Lots of prizes given out throughout the year for positive behavior.
- We collect soft plastic in the bin in the front office. The engineering class submits them to an organization that turns the bags into a bench. If we collect 1000lbs we get a free bench.

- A/Cs are almost fully functioning. Everything building now has new A/Cs. The conference room is being worked on, parts have been ordered. Some A/Cs were really loud, and the district is working through those issues.
- 800 students, with a waitlist. We are at a pause enrolling due to scheduling for special circumstances.
- 420 8th grade - 380 7th grade
- July - City of Phoenix is tearing up Sweetwater from the park to 60th Street. After lots of communications we discovered the sewage lines were connected and the project is on pause. The project will resume, but we have asked it to be delayed until summer. New traffic patterns will be implemented. Ms. Knaeble will be communicating information as she receives it.
- The kids are delightful, kind, say hi, talk to adults. We saw huge growth in math and ELA after switching the block schedule. Test results are still pending.
- Please call the office if you need something rather than emailing Ms. Knaeble. She is trying to get to emails, but tries to be present around the school.

12. UPC Report (Laura & Kia)

- UPC has access to the Superintendent and Cabinet, we support facilities and thank district wide.
- The meeting is Wednesday morning once a month.
- To be a UPC rep you have to go to the meeting
- New Superintendent this year, very energetic, excited to be here, great first meeting.
- All meetings are open to everyone
- The September meeting will cover the student handbook at the District Office.

Additional Items to discuss

- Go to Horizon athletic games to introduce middle schoolers to the high schoolers.
- Horizon Sept 26th opening night - Almost, Maine
- Art Academy - art show, communication needs to come from the teachers to parents because students don't tell their parents.

Questions?

7:12pm

Upcoming PTO Meetings: Monday, September 29th, 5:30pm



Desert Shadows Middle School - PTO Meeting Agenda – 9/29/2025

Call to order 5:33 pm

Meeting Adjourned 6:59pm

3 online
10 in person

- Welcome -
- Voting Items: Motion to approve minutes from August meeting - Denise motion to approve, Julie Garcia 2nd to approve the minutes
- President Report (Kristina) -
- Treasurer Report (Gardenia) - Closed Direct Giving with \$46,000 total. \$11k Business Sponsors, \$26k individuals, \$7k family sponsors, \$200 Corporate Matching (plus more coming in) - Amazing increase from last year and we did it in 1 month! Almost \$800 from Grapes and SkyZone night.
- Communication and Social Media Report (Kristin) - Everything is great! Please text Kristin if she forgot to post something.
- Volunteer Report (Sarah C) - Thank you everyone who signs up and shows up. Pizza Delivery is up and nearly full. Next sign up is for the dance, we'll need 10-15 volunteers. Can someone help sign volunteers in at the dance as Sarah C. has some other commitments that night. Sarah will put that on the volunteer sign up. We'll be looking for a volunteer chair for next year as Sarah won't be at DSMS next year.
- Events Report - Fall Dance - 4 people on the dance committee. Friday, October 24th, 6-8pm. We're planning for 450-500 students. Halloween, costume theme. Permission slips will need to be signed, this will be their ticket. DJ, photo booth, minute to win it games, dancing, raffle prizes, earn tickets by dancing/acts of kindness/picking up trash/etc. Ticket fairies give out tickets all night. Possible Google Doc for RSVP, so we have a better idea of how many people plan to attend. Food collection to PVUSD Food Bank a possibility. Still working on food vendors. Does NJHS want to sell desserts? Choir drinks? Students will need to bring money for food. It's a fun time, encourage your student to attend!

- Fundraising Report -

Passive Fundraising - Kona Ice canceled due to rain. Booked for the 10th.

October 14th - 5-9pm - Chipotle fundraiser - in person and online orders

November - Crumbl and pairing with one of the neighboring restaurants

December - Kendra Scott - paired with a restaurant in the Quarter

Would like to bring some food trucks to Festival Sports

Evereve - Amy did this at SSky and they made \$700, about 12 moms went.

D-Backs - at least 12 families attended, waiting to hear how much we raised.

44 business sponsors, 13 more banners to put up. Plus 6 in-kind sponsors.

We will also be asking them for donations for Teacher Appreciation, etc. Building partnerships. Jade will be asking them if they would like to give a discount, etc DSMS families. We will promote this on socials, email, and website.

- Hospitality Report (Sarah L) - Lunch coming up for the first half day. Lounge Stock with Halloween treats in October. Lounge Stocks are a great opportunity for people to give who didn't give during Direct Giving. October 27th conference night dinner. The team is working on getting donations so we have funds to use elsewhere. Most of our PTO funds go to teacher/staff appreciation.

- Teachers Report

Ms. Saley - new AC!! Kids are getting adjusted and settled in, a good start to the year. 5-10 teachers go to the dance. Thank you PTO, the support is so noticed, appreciated, discussed among the teachers/staff. DSMS is different, new teachers say they have never been to a school like ours. Thank you also to PVUDS for supporting schools, staff, teachers...this allows principals to have resources to direct their teachers/staff to.

- Principal Report

Festival Sports got rained out this weekend. Basketball Festival was great!

All Star games start next week. Everyone come out!

40th day of school this Wednesday. We'll hide some prizes around the school. This is an important day for funding. Please send your student to school on Wednesday!

Washington DC trip, October 15th, 99 students are attending. Parent night for current 7th graders will be soon for next year's trip.

The company that organizes the trip is amazing and has backup plans and backup plans. 12 Staff members attend.

Last week DSMS participated in an experiment - all students, district level tech did a 3rd grade test to test out a technology before it was rolled out.

The district staff were very impressed with DSMS students.

Picture Re-take - October 10th

Quarter ends October 10th - check Infinite Campus for your student's current grades, assignments, etc.

October 13th - NJHS induction ceremony

StuGo - Jamal 8th grade President, Dominic Treasurer - Congrats to everyone who applied, ran, campaigned.

November 13th - 6th grade night - Gather names for PTO volunteers. Spirit Wear Fashion Show!!

October 27th - Parent Teacher Conferences 4-7pm - One night only

October 28th - 8th grade to Horizon for school tour - day fieldtrip

Sweetwater Project - Sign says October 3rd, but that's the date it's going to get worse. They will be closing Sweetwater from 57th - 59th - There will be a new sign. New deadline is Thanksgiving. Police don't think it will be done before winter break. Julie Gacia says it has been really smooth. Thank you to the staff who are out here helping direct traffic. Use the park...until the park starts working on a new water system....it shouldn't disrupt much and will "only" take a year.

Boys bathrooms keep getting broken and they have to be closed until they can get fixed. If you have a male student please talk to them about being respectful of property.

Girls bathrooms have trash cans ordered - checking on temporary trash cans for stalls. Girls have submitted anonymous suggestions.

Anonymoustips.com. Those tips are truly anonymous. Every PV school has a link on their website.

Community Member email - concerned about heavy backpack. Laura says it has gotten better as teachers are not requiring large supplies (large binders). Can teachers who need large binders have a shelf in their classrooms? Do we need to ask teachers to have a streamline system school wide? Leah is asking teachers to help lighten their load and for ideas.

- UPC Report (Laura & Kea)

Laura - Busses - all full time openings will hopefully be filled by December and part time positions are filling in.

September Meeting - Student Handbook and update - Director of Student Services - updated definition of bullying, excused and unexcused absences, 2 strikes and your expelled for drugs or alcohol.

October Meeting - On School to School Partnering - what schools still partner with a Title 1 schools. DSMS provides a meal during conferences to Sweetwater. Ideas of what other schools have done/do were given as well.

UPC has a new Technology Committee - follow on FB -
upcpvusd.org - Gifted and Special Ed programs and more
Crest Program Parent Night - October 7th
Horizon - Halloween Haunted House - October 29th and 30th

Additional Items to discuss

Questions?

Upcoming PTO Meetings: October 20th at 5:30pm



Desert Shadows Middle School - PTO Meeting Agenda – 10/20/2025

- Welcome - 5:31pm meeting started - Attendance 13 in person, 9 online
- Voting Items: Motion to approve minutes from September meeting - Alana motions, Amy seconds to approve
- President Report (Kristina)
 - Sidewinder GivingBack - PJ and Donut Day?
- Treasurer Report (Gardenia) - Amy - Corporate Match at \$800
 - Committee Heads - stick to your budgets, but if you need to go over talk to PTO to discuss.
- Communication and Social Media Report (Kristin) - Everything is great!
- Volunteer Report (Sarah) - Crushing the volunteer requests!! May open up a few spots for the dance. The pizza sign up is full through December. Thank you to everyone who volunteers!
- Events Report (Alana & The A's)
 - Fall Dance - 10/24 Costume Theme from 6-8pm - Prep crew come at 4:30, expecting 300-400 students. NJHS - soda, snacks, maybe desserts. Costco pizza - profit, 2 pieces for \$5, some gluten free pizza as well. Same DJ, photo booth, glow items. Costumes are optional, any costume is fine, just need to see their face. Signed permission slip is REQUIRED. No ID required. Lots of raffles.
- Fundraising Report (Jennie)
 - Passive Fundraising - \$55 diamondbacks, \$82.80 from Chipotle
 - 11/18 - Hot Chicken Alley
 - 12/16 - Rubios and Crumble - tentative
 - 12/5 - Kendra Scott - working on a Quarter restaurant
 - Caines, Flower Child, Panda Express, working on pop-ups
 - Next Pop-Up is Nov 7th
 - Business Sponsors - 50 sponsors, our goal was 20. Some sponsors are in-kind, if their donations is above \$300 they get a banner.

- Spiritwear - it's COMING! Kim is finalizing everything with BSN Sports, Todd a DSMS parent. BSN donated new uniforms for the entire district! The boys basketball team will have a picture with the new jerseys and trophy.
 - Possibly selling Horizon wear
 - Shirts for teachers
- Marquee - We will be actively marketing \$20 for students birthdays on the marquee
- Hospitality Report (Sarah)
 - Teacher Conference Night 10/27 - set up by 2:30 from Texas Roadhouse, donated.
 - Last week on half day, lunch for 50 from Chipotle - greatly appreciated
 - Cane's does donations, need to talk to area marketing director
- Teachers Report - Appreciate the Chipotle lunch. Busy time of year with all of the holidays. Parents check in with students on class work.
- Principal Report - The Flood of Monday - power outage, no wifi, PA system, shelter in place. Assessed damage - power line, sewage pipe broke - when we make decisions we make it to keep kids safe, not to make anyone's life harder. All teachers assessed the situation and continued with class as they were able, with the priority of keeping kids safe. Ms. Knaeble called district and asked them to send an email. There are tons of plans for all situations.
 - 98 students and 12 staff went to Washington DC last week.
 - World Strides is the travel company we use. They had a ton of activities. 7am-10pm every day. Lots of plans changed throughout the trip.
 - Next year's DC trip meeting is coming up.
 - Monday is conference night 4-7pm. Come any time, sign up on the teacher sign up right away, they will keep going back to your name. 7th grade teachers and electives in the gym. 8th grade teachers and special ed in the cafeteria.
 - Student Council Spirit Week - next week - details to come in an email.
- UPC Report (Laura) - Next UPC is 10/22 - Presentation on School to School Partnership - the ideas we shared last week will be shared.
 - DSMS would like to donate a teacher meal and raise money specifically for a school. Laura will let us know what school is in need and what they specifically need.
 - 10/21 - Partnering for Student Success presentation at 6:30
 - Gifted Committee - Nonfiction and social studies 11/18 at 6pm

- Library Title Review Committee - members needed - meetings are generally around 3:45pm - 5pm
- Calendar Committee - members needed. Creating calendar for 27/28 - 30/31 years - 4 meeting Jan-March 3:45-5pm
- K-12 Science Curriculum Adoption Curriculum
- 11/19 - Technology presentation - after UPC meeting

Additional Items to discuss

Horizon High School Haunted House - 11/29 & 30 - scary and non scary options. Trunk or Treat on the 30th

Broadway Under the Stars - sells out every year. This Thursday - Sunday

Meeting adjourned - 6:37pm

Questions?

Upcoming PTO Meetings: 11/24/25, No December Meeting, 1/12/26



Desert Shadows Middle School - PTO Meeting Agenda – 11/24/2025

5:30 - 6:43

10 in person

2 online

- Welcome
- Voting Items: Motion to approve minutes from October meeting
Motion to approve by Amy, second by Sarah
- President Report (Kristina)
 - Food Drive to PV Community Food Bank - At the Fall Dance we collected a ton of food. The Food Bank was blown away by what we collected.
 - DSMS Gives Back Project - Come up with a special give back to Roadrunner or Sweetwater - The students buy donuts or something and all of the funds go to the school. We will also provide a meal. These two schools house students from all of the schools because they are students who need additional assistance.
 - Special Holiday Project for Staff - working with BSN Sports - \$30 voucher for our teachers to use. We're creating a special site for our teachers to shop at with special items. We are recreating one of the designs from the 80s.
- Treasurer Report (Gardenia)
 - Fall Dance - we made about \$650.95 from pizza sales. (NJHS raised over \$1000)
 - Company Matching we have hit our goal
 - Dine and Donates & Pop-Ups fundraising money is coming in.
 - Ms. Knaeble will remind teachers to submit their receipts for their grants.
 - We are getting Zelle set up, we should be set up by January!
- Communication and Social Media Report (Kristin)
 - Posting sponsor logos on social media and Missy is posting on marquee
 - I could use some help posting to social media
 - Send an email from Ms. Knaeble to sponsor thanking them and send an email with all sponsors to all families.
 - Julie Garcia will help with Sponsor posting.
 - Let's post about PBIS pizza lunch to show parents what we do at school
- Volunteer Report (Sarah C)
 - Recap 6th Grade Open House - 30 families signed up to volunteers

- Every volunteer opportunity has been filled.
- Pizza sign up will go out for the second half of the year soon. Kids are LOVING it!
- Hospitality Report (Sarah L)
 - Getting ready for Holiday Staff Appreciation
 - Lots of happy teachers! They loved Texas Roadhouse for conferences. Jade connected Sarah with TR and are willing to do another donated lunch.
 - Holidays - planning a lounge stock, lunch, \$25 Amazon gift cards, all staff are getting a t-shirt from the Principal. We'll do a cookie exchange, asking parents to bake cookies and teachers can take home.
 - Sign Up Genius for stock the lounge and cookie exchange
- Events Report
 - Save-the-Date for School Dance on February 6 from 6-8pm - fancier event in the cafeteria. We'll have a little less attend, about 300 students.
 - The permission slip worked really well.
- Fundraising Report
 - Looking for a VP of Fundraising that wants to join the Board this school year to learn the ropes for next school year. If you know of anyone who is interested reach out to Kristina.
 - Kendra Scott Event on December 5 from 5-7pm (Amy E)
 - We will likely have Zin or Culinary Dropout for a Dine and Donate the same night at Kendra Scott.
 - Snowy Churro on Dec 5 and 19 after school pop-up
 - Rubios & Crumbl - 1/16
 - Several other restaurants in mind and working on getting them booked
 - Jingle and the JW will sponsor one day Monday-Friday, we choose the date, 20% give back. Hanukkah event as well. - Sara Singer
 - Business Sponsor Networking (Jade I) - One business sponsor asked to do a networking event - put together a document with all contact information. They want to support business to business. Possibly invite potential sponsors.
 - Spirit Wear - all new designs - BSN Sports donated the shirts that were tossed.
- Teachers Report
 - Social Studies hard deadline Dec 5th
 - DSMS students were so kind and did a great job volunteering at Sandpiper Hoedown on Friday night.
- Principal Report
 - 16 days to the end of the semester
 - Sweetwater Project sign has been updated to Dec 15th, no need to egg the sign, lol!

- We received our outlook for next year - 770 projections. Ms. Knaeble thinks there will be more.
- We will be getting a Dean. They help with attendance, lower level behavior, assisting the Principal/Assistant Principal. A Dean is someone who has an admin certificate and are wanting to become a principal. A great training opportunity.
- A new custodian starts on Dec 1.
- We hired a new campus assistant, Ray. Working opposite and cross over with Raymond.
- Conducting interviews for instructional assistant ---once this position is filled we should be completely staffed.
- People come here and want to stay here. Many employees went here or had students who went here.
- 7th graders will be registering for 8th grade classes in January
- No forensics next year as the teacher is going to focus on a new science curriculum.
- Possibly adding a career exploration elective
- 8th graders will register at the end of January - email was sent with a link, students have logged in and can take assessments to explore their options.
- UPC Report (Laura & Erica)
 - Meeting was last Wednesday - 2 part presentation
 - Phoenix Detective spoke about child exploitation. (not recorded)
 - The second half was a presentation on AI usage. Sharing the positives and negatives. Laura thinks a parent talk at DSMS would be great.
 - Next meeting is about transition from elementary to middle and middle to high school.
 - Gift and special ed presentations are available on the UPC website.
 - Fundraising - PV Parent Expo - Feb 10th 6-8pm - get vendors who schools would need for events and parents/PTO can walk through to get new vendors.

Additional Items to discuss

Horizon football is still in the 5A championship run.

Coach Ditmore was recognized by District as Coach of the Year

Volleyball tournament -

Musical - Mama Mia - end of February

Happy Thanksgiving!

Questions?

Upcoming PTO Meetings: Monday, January 12 at 5:30pm



Desert Shadows Middle School - PTO Meeting Agenda – 1/12/2026

5:30pm - 6:24pm

6 in person

4 online

- Welcome
- Voting Items: Motion to approve minutes from November meeting
Motion to approve by Shawn Bell, second by Amy Leiber
- President Report (Kristina)
 - 100th Day of School is 1/16/26. PTO will host PJ and Donut for a Cause day. Kids are invited to wear PJs to school and then swing by the Donut table from 7:15am - 8am and buy a donut or a dozen donuts. All funds raised will be used to support Sweetwater Community School.
 - We are going to start the process for filling PTO Board and Committee positions for the 2026-2027 school year. A google form will go out asking if you will be staying in your current seat, leaving or like to fill another PTO seat. Over the next few months we will fill our Board positions and 85% of our committee positions.
- Treasurer Report (Amy)
 - The reimbursement process is ready online - will be live in a few weeks.
 - Zelle is set up so this will allow for speedy reimbursements.
- Communication and Social Media Report (Kristin)
 - Everything is going really well with communication and social media. We have a good rhythm with weekly communications via Principal emails, then post on both Facebook and Instagram.
 - Our Holiday Help DSMS Families in need post, was a true testament to how communication can really impact a community. In 24 hours we were able to collect over \$2700, plus gift cards and clothing, to help 2 families have a very memorable holiday season.
- Volunteer Report (Sarah C)
 - Pizza Fridays Sign-up Genius is LIVE and filled until February. We will keep sending it out month by month to get the upcoming month filled with volunteers.
 - Once the dance volunteer needs are submitted, we will get the sign up genius link out so we can get volunteers committed for the February 6 school dance.

- Hospitality Report (Sarah L)
 - Had an excellent holiday appreciation for teachers and staff. Thank you to everyone that baked cookies. We had over 1000 cookies and treats to make cookie tins for each staff member, along with a \$25 gift card.
 - January we will host lunch on Tuesday 1/13 for 50 teachers that will stay for Teacher Development. We will do Jimmy John's sandwiches, chips, fruit and dessert. We will be set up at 2:30pm and will most likely confirm Potbelly for this set up.
- Events Report
 - Save-the-Date for School Dance on February 6 from 6-8pm - Sneaker Soiree in the cafeteria. We'll have a little less attendance, about 250-300 students. Chick-fil-a will be the main meal and NJHS will be selling sodas, candy and snacks.
 - The permission slip worked really well so we will do them again.
- Fundraising Report
 - Looking for a VP of Fundraising that wants to join the Board this school year to learn the ropes for next school year. If you know of anyone who is interested, reach out to Kristina at president@sidewinderpto.com
 - After School Pop-Up: Churro & Sundae Shoppe 1/13
 - Dine & Donate: Rubios & Crumbl - 1/16
 - We put together a Business Sponsor Directory that will be on PTO communication via email blast.
 - We sold over \$400 of Spiritwear at the 6th grade open house in November. We did a fun fashion show and giveaway some spiritwear to incoming students at the 6th grade open house.
- Teachers Report
 - Thank you to the PTO for helping support the track and field banquet
 - PE thanks PTO for purchasing the Hoops Hustle game. It's been a great addition in PE.
 - Thank you for the lunches and all the hospitality
 - Mrs. Glienka - purchased a few novels for her classroom
 - The front office loved being able to buy staff spiritwear and had many apparel options.
- VP Principal Report
 - On the half day - Tomorrow at the Professional Development Day, the teacher will discuss and strategize how to help the minimally proficient category.
 - Building Thinking Classrooms - working on creating a Building Thinking Room for students to move. They can retain more information when they are moving. Will work with PTO to figure out the details and cost.

- Festival - January 23 in Football and Volleyball at Shadow Mountain. It's a big day and our largest Festival.
- Buses for Castles and Coasters are being booked.
- Parent Square communication will be rolling out at DSMS very soon.
- 100th Day of School on Friday 1/16/26
- Teachers are reinforcing students to use their agenda. Working on their executive function.
- Ms. Kneable is out for the week, so Shawn will be holding down the fort.
- **UPC Report (Laura)**
 - January 21 - Presentation from counselors about transitions from elementary to middle school then from middle school to high school
 - PV Parent Expo on February 10th, 6-8pm at DSMS. We are looking for vendors to have a table at the event. Businesses can sign up here: [Parent Expo - United Parent Council](https://www.pvupc.org/parent-expo.html) We are especially trying to connect with parent-owned businesses and new businesses that would like to get their information out there! <https://www.pvupc.org/parent-expo.html> Everyone is invited to attend the event and learn about PVSchools programs, local businesses, summer camps, fundraisers for school and sports programs and educational support programs!
- **Additional Items to discuss**
 - Horizon basketball and wrestling season - senior night on Friday
 - Look at Horizon website for the sports schedule
 - January 29 - girls basketball future husky night
 - Musical - Mama Mia - end of February
 - Feb 7 - DSMS cheerleader showcase at Horizon 1pm

Upcoming PTO Meetings: Monday, February 23 at 5:30pm



Desert Shadows Middle School - PTO Meeting Agenda – 2/23/2025

9 in person
3 online

Start: 530pm

End: 6:38pm

- Welcome
- Voting Items: Motion to approve minutes from January meeting
First Laura
Second Amy Lieber
- President Report (Kristina)
 - Working on slating board positions for April. 60 volunteers rolling into 8th grade and 30 who have already signed up to help next year (incoming 7th).
 - VP elect has already said yes.
 - Fundraising role is open.
 - Moving more and more electronic for notes and plans for following years.
- Treasurer Report (Gardenia)
 - \$12K on sponsorships (banners) which is \$6K over budget.
 - \$130 in box tops contribution
 - \$317 in Frys Rewards (expect 2 more payments)
 - Explore promoting program through social
 - Highlight that \$200 received from Crumbl
 - Increased ask for classroom supplies, but still under budget.
 - All forms are online for reimbursement. We need to continue to train parents and volunteers on how to submit. Payment options are checks or Zelle.
 - Opportunity to promote on social.
 - Leah will also share with teachers.
- Communication and Social Media Report (Kristin)
 - Connecting Insta and Facebook
- Volunteer Report (Sarah)
 - Thank you for the amazing volunteers

- Friday pizza has been going great. Leah shared that the students really love it and get hyped up. It is a win for the students - thank you to the parent volunteers.
- Suggested the idea of a volunteer appreciation breakfast and Kristina shared it is already planned for May 11. We are going to combine the PTO meeting with the Volunteer Party. Sarah is going to draft up ideas and plan - Idea is 715am..
- Events Report
 - Dance was great
 - Spring always smaller

- Fundraising Report

Amy shared an update on passive fundraising.

- 2/27 Churro Truck after school
- 3/5 Grapes and Hops Dine and Donate (5-8pm) board and bottle special with 20% back.
- 3/13 Ice Cream Truck after school
- **New:** March 23-27th Dozen Donut Sale. M-Th presale dozen donuts for pick up Friday along with individual donut sales. Funds will help us increase the budget for Teacher Appreciation
- 3/27 Nicki Sweet Treats after school
- Total Raised: \$2,200
- Ideas for next year include selling for All Star sports weeks to feed the athletes and other businesses (Axe Throwing)

Kristina shared we are have hit our fundraising goals and are focused on spending. Single direct giving week has been very successful compared to the year prior where we had multiple fundraisers.

- Hospitality Report (Cindy & Sarah)
 - Mix of donations and purchases to support our teachers. Examples include Texas Roadhouse, Whataburger, etc.
 - Starting after spring break, Teacher Appreciation Week planning will kick off.
 - We do need a hospitality chair for 26/27. 3 people will move into next year.
- Teachers Report

N/A
- Principal Report
 - Reminder on service hours due in May
 - Rocket program coming for 7th - start saving 2L soda bottles
 - 3/5 staff will hear from special guest from the technical team - iboss which will help control access to outside sites/games
 - Nominations are open for UPC Staff awards

- Follow up on threat via text: parent noticed a text and reported it. Leah shared how much went right. What we learned is many students are being brought into group messages without consent. A lot of hate speech is happening - impacting how students feel. We are writing an SRO grant which will also bring education into the classroom. **Parents please be aware of communications on devices.**
- End of Year celebration for students:
 - Info will come out after spring break.
 - 7th rockets
 - 4/28 Castles and Coasters for 7th Grade - need charter buses
 - Estimate \$60/pp (ticket, lunch, transportation)
 - PTO allocated \$1500
 - 5/19 or 5/20 SunSplash for 8th grade
 - Estimate \$80/pp (ticket, lunch, transportation)
 - PTO allocated \$2250
- UPC Report (Laura & Erica)
 - Teacher/Staff Appreciation is open
 - Gerry Morgan Award: Volunteer recognition award
 - March 25 UPC Meeting - School Finance Session

Additional Items to discuss

Horizon Updates:

- Girls Basketball is still in the tournament, #2 in 5A
- Mama Mia is this weekend
- Baseball/Softball/Track is getting started

Horizon PAWS (hub for all the clubs):

- Has 24 clubs
- Teacher support/meals, teacher appreciation week
- Fundraising: volunteer drive, yard signs for graduation, 7 scholarships for students - \$1K each, auction seats for graduation
- \$40 membership donation
- NEED: CFO for PAWS (manage finances for the 24 clubs)
- NEED: Website Person for PAWS
- 4 meetings/year

Questions?

Upcoming PTO Meetings: 3/30/2026



Desert Shadows Middle School - PTO Meeting Agenda – 3/30/2026

5:30pm-6:36pm

9 in person

6 online

- Welcome
- Voting Items: Motion to approve minutes from February meeting - 1st - Amy, 2nd - Lana
- President Report (Kristina)
 - Building for 2026-2027 PTO -
 - Janelle - VP
 - Still need a Fundraiser
- Treasurer Report (Gardenia) - \$2,850 under Direct Giving is for the student planners. \$2366 is from banners, we hope everyone renews and we can reuse their banner next year. Teacher meals and classroom expenses are our biggest categories left for the year and biggest changes month to month. Teacher Gifts is used for holiday and TAW gifts. Hospitality is planning 5 days of pampering our teachers/staff during the week.
- Communication and Social Media Report (Kristin) - Communication is going great. Thank you Kristina for writing the emails and I post info on socials. Looking forward to Google Non-Profit getting set up.
- Volunteer Report (Sarah)
 - Volunteer Brunch 5/12/26 at 7:15am - 8am - making an invitation for volunteers and one for staff. Will include Google form to track RSVPs. Last year we did Salad n Go breakfast burritos, do we want to do that again? Yes, great price and substance. We'll also do yogurt bar and coffee. Mimi's Cafe does pastry donations. Do we want to do the flower bouquets again? Yes! Kristina will coordinate the flowers. Trader Joe's may also be an option. Flow - let everyone mingle, then say a few things...not super scheduled.
 - May PTO Meeting 5/12/26 8:15am - 9:15am - shortest PTO Meeting after the volunteer brunch.

- Need to share Pizza SUG again in next email - few open shifts for Friday Pizza Delivery - we just need a few slots filled for end of April/beginning of May
- We have a detailed volunteer list - should I be sending every volunteer every opportunity? Yes!
- Fundraising Report
 - Had a fun Donut Day and raised over \$500 that will go towards TAW - Kids love Donate Days! Don't plan Donate Day on an after school pop up day.
 - Will work with Jade at the end of the month to renew all the Business Sponsors for next year - Goal is to renew 75% of the businesses. We'll have money coming in now for next year.
 - Passive Fundraising - Raising Cane's Dine and Donate on 4/20 at 3-9pm. We have 4 after school pop ups, last day of school 2 Kona Ice trucks.
 - Athletic Home Games - students have to stay here and students are needing a meal. Parents are rushing to get here for a 5pm game and staying until 7pm. A food truck would be helpful to have on game days.
- Hospitality Report (Sarah Levin)
 - Professional Dev. Lunch for staff 3/31/26 at 11:30am for 55 staff.
 - Prepping for TAW - do something every day (meals, snack, treats, gift, spa day)
 - Breakfast the day after the last day of school, 5/22.
- Teachers Report - Thank you for everything the PTO does. Chick-fil-a will bring in a cart of chicken sandwiches we can sell for games.
- Principal Report -
 - In classrooms 7th grade science is getting ready to do their rockets...build and shoot them. Make sure your kid puts their name on them! Yearbooks, get your orders in before the deadline, ASAP.
 - Testing has started. This week is science, next week is writing and math.
 - Human Growth and Development - a video, then students are invited to ask questions at home.
 - Castles and Coasters is April 28th for 7th graders - students who don't attend work on a project.
 - SunSplash is May 20st for 8th graders
 - Art Show at SMHS - 3 students sold art work - the district only buys 4 middle school pieces.
 - The choirs went to CA last week - received Gold Ranking - almost unheard of. The show choir did Hamilton. The high school groups were blown away by our show choirs. Two hours workshop with Beetlejuice cast. Students in honors orchestra and band won state awards.
 - Musical Theater - 13 - April 29th and 30th.

- Field striper - approved to buy what Justin wants.
- We are getting new carpet, teachers will need to box everything up.
- Hoping for an office remodel- asking to remove cafeteria style windows. And adding 2 offices for our new SRO and Dean.
- Clapout will be the last day of school 11-1pm.
- Sidewinder Camp is July 29th - info on that will be coming.
- UPC Report (Laura) - Instructional Aids bags delivered. Jill Barigan - Assistant Super of Business Services - does a great job of explaining the AZ State Budget. M&O override on the ballot in November. Phoenix Public Library will speak at the next meeting to share all of the resources available at the Library. Parent Satisfaction Survey is coming in April, next year UPC would like to do it earlier so actions can be made earlier. iBoss software allows teachers to monitor student screens. Students are asking more questions because they can't just Google the answer.

Additional Items to discuss: Horizon has their Husky 101, July 23rd and 24th, incoming freshman, small fee, includes t-shirt

Questions?

Upcoming PTO Meetings: 4/20/2026 at 5:30pm



Desert Shadows Middle School - PTO Meeting Agenda – 4/20/2025

Call to order 5:33pm

Meeting Adjourned 7pm

In person: 9

Online: 2

- Welcome - Look at how many we have in April!
Thank you Breakfast with PTO Meeting after in May
- Voting Items: Motion to approve minutes from March meeting
Amy motions and Amy seconds. Minutes approved
- President Report (Kristina)
 - Recap of the year - hitting record numbers of volunteers. 104 general volunteers. We eliminated a lot of fundraising, streamlining.
~This year's focus was communication and honing in on direct giving.
~ We raised over \$50k during direct giving and business sponsors (\$12k from business sponsors and \$48k from direct giving families).
~ both dances free of cost, collected donation for local food bank
 - 2026-27 PTO Executive Board Nominations and Vote
~ PTO President - Julie Garcia
~ VP Elect - Janel Bartlett
~ Treasurer - Amy Lieber and Brenna Davis
~ Secretary - Kristin Stauffer
~ UPC Rep - Leslie Quinn
~ Fundraising Chair - open position
Nominated by Kristina Brown, second by Laura Hill
The motion carries and approved
 - 2026-27 Committee Positions
~ Hospitality - Kristin Powell, Bonnie Mazza and
~ Social Media - Sara Singer
~ Event Chair - Tida Radevski
~ Volunteer Chair - open
~ Business Sponsor - Jade
~ Passive Fundraiser -
~ Marquee - open
- Treasurer Report (Gardenia and Amy)

Receipt deadline - May 15th

Teacher Appreciation will be a big expense

- Communication and Social Media Report (Kristin)
 - ~ Our Facebook and Instagram have grown - people are seeing our events!
 - ~ Will post about volunteer breakfast and TAW sign up
 - ~ Kristin will help Sara Singer on board and throughout the year
- Volunteer Report (Sarah Cole)
 - ~ Sarah has done an incredible job!
 - ~ All pizza Fridays are full!
 - ~ A few more sign up geniuses to go out this year
 - ~ Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast going out tonight - will also go out in email and socials. May 12th at 7:15am with teachers.
 - ~ TAW Sign Up will also go out this week.
- Fundraising Report
 - Passive Fundraising - Collecting donations from companies we partnered with. Tonight is our last Dine & Donate at Cane's until 9pm. Creating community events in addition to raising money.
 - New food ingredients law - can no longer sell on campus from midnight to 30 minutes after the end of school. Can't sell certain ingredients. Looking for clarification on law.
 - Business Sponsors - Jade is working on emailing all of our current 50 business sponsors. We hope to reuse most of the banners.
- Hospitality Report (Sarah Levin)
 - ~ TAW - An activity everyday
 - Monday - lounge stock - signup genius will be sent tomorrow, drop off in the morning with volunteers to set up
 - Tuesday - breakfast - possible spa day
 - Wednesday - lunch - Olive Garden or Pita Jungle
 - Thursday - coffee truck in the morning and pretzel and popcorn bar in the afternoon
 - Friday - treat bags with Amazon gift card with supply cart when dropping off treat bags - any ideas for what supplies teachers have please send them to Sarah Levin
 - ~ Day after school breakfast
- Teachers Report
- Principal Report
 - ~ Teachers say thank you and remind students that we have a month left!
 - ~ 8th grade parents - if students don't pass a class in 8th grade they can't play sports in high school. There is no summer school.

~ Community Service hours are due May 8th - 6 hours for 7th and 8 hours for 8th

~ State testing is over, we were an observation location for ADE. They sat in a few classes and took notes. Make up testing will finish this week.

~ DLSI AAPL testing starts tomorrow, 4/21 - they will use a special area for the speaking portion so noises don't interfere.

~ We ordered 50 additional yearbooks and have sold all but 8 of them. They will likely be delivered in August.

~ Pre-ordered yearbooks will be here the last week of school. Yearbook signing on the last day of school before the clapout.

~ Clapout for 8th graders at 11:30 - Kona Ice trucks, drumline leading them out.

~ Sabrina is in the front and sees we don't have much shade - we have two trees that will eventually cover the name of the school. Will the PTO purchase trees or a structure to provide trees. Look into using Bond money and PTO money, possibly partner with DSES as well.

~ Civics Test is on Wednesday- students parents who were at risk were emailed

~ SRO has been granted. Largest and last middle school to get one.

~ Sidewinder Camp will hopefully be July 29 - waiting on funding from district.

- UPC Report (Laura and Kea)

~ The May meeting is May 13, Closing Bell with Dr. Courson

~ After the May meeting there will be training for new and veteran PTO board members. Includes updates and changes to laws, etc. This is a great opportunity for new board members

~ TA - highest number of recognitions. The teachers will be honored at an event at North Canyon

~ April Meeting - community - 2 speakers from Phoenix Public Library. Summer Reading is for everyone, even adults get prizes. They also talked about other programs from kids, teens, and adults. Teens - book share - similar to a book club, trivia night, volunteer at the library. Adults - book discussions, blood drive, public art, talking to your kids about certain topics. This summer Jungle Jill, Phoenix Zoo, As You Wish, James the Juggler, Herpetological. If you have a library card - free access to Roseta Stone, [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), online books, mags, and music. Prepare for the driving test, consumer report. Online for teens - scholarship info, test prep. Museum passes, garden seeds.

~ Director of PV Food Bank - available to residents in the PV District and any kids who go to PVSchools. Please plan a food drive. Accept volunteers and monetary donations.

Additional Items to discuss

Husky 101 - July 23 & 24, 8-11ish - email will likely go out after the last day of school to incoming students.

Horizon boys basketball team is doing a camp for junior high boys

Wrestling, football, baseball, girls basketball, show choir - does a summer camp - if any of your students are interested reach out to get more information.

Get your kids involved in high school early!

Musical Theater - 13 - April 29th & 30th

Read email for Ms. Knaeble for all of the dates

The track and field is in rough condition - will there be a renovation? Yes, the district is working on the "pond" with the drainage. The biggest problem is the goffers, that the district can't kill.

We will also be adding more signage about trespassing.

Questions?

Upcoming PTO Meetings: May 12 at 8:15am - 9:15am



Desert Shadows Middle School - PTO Meeting Agenda – 5/12/2025

Call to order at 8:25

8 in person attendance

Meeting adjourned at 9:21

- Welcome
- Voting Items: Motion to approve minutes from April meeting
 - Laura motioned and Jade second to approve minutes
- President Report (Kristina)
 - Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast in the morning with staff worked really well.
 - Allison McGee is our new Volunteer Coordinator
 - Thank you Sarah Cole for planning the breakfast
- Treasurer Report (Gardenia)
 - \$32-35,000 in the bank plus \$20k in savings
 - 400 nominations from students voting for teachers
 - There are still some expenses outstanding - 8th grade busses, etc
 - We now have Zelle and will have an ecommerce page
 - We should end the year with about \$10,000 to leave for next year - we are financially in a great place
 - Ms. Saley suggested that teachers each take one business sponsor and call to thank them. Jade and Kristina will work on organizing.
 - We are asking teachers/staff to have receipts in by May 15th
- Communication and Social Media Report (Kristin)
 - Sara Singer is now an admin on Facebook and we're getting her set up with Instagram
- Volunteer Report (Sarah)
 - We're ending the year with 60 volunteers for next year and we'll add more at the beginning of next year.
 - Pizza Fridays are still a huge hit - parents pick up a pizza at Costco and drop it off for students who win PBIS drawing.
- Events Report
 - Dance Chair - Tida Radevski
- Fundraising Report

- Spirit Wear - Horizon
- Raised a little over \$5k in passive fundraising - Dine & Donates, After School Pop Ups
- Amy Emory lined up a great year with two locations at one time - SkyZone & Grapes and Hops and Crumbl & Rubio's
- Corinne Shtayer - passive fundraising for next year
- Ms. Saley suggested that teachers each take one business sponsor and call to thank them. Jade and Kristina will work on organizing. Then, Jade will send an email with renewal.
- How can we collaborate with businesses more, make the business sponsor amount and then partner with the businesses on other things.
- Hospitality Report (Cindy & Sarah)
- Teachers Report
 - Teachers thanked the PTO for various specifics during volunteer breakfast.
- Principal Report
 - Last week was the band concert, last night was the choir performance. Our students are prepared for their future. The sound system the PTO funded is a huge
 - We need 1.5 Special Ed teachers
 - Tara Slade will be our Dean next year, current Assistant Principal at DSES
 - Construction of front office to accommodate SRO office and Assistant Principal offices. Thanks for supporting our bonds.
 - Filled Spanish - retiring professor from Scottsdale Community College, looking for a part time gig with energy for middle schoolers. He helped write one of the text books for Spanish immersion.
 - Clap Out last day of school
 - SunSplash on the 20th - 252 students going and 151 not going.
 - We need a couple of 1:1 nursing positions filled.
 - We are hoping for an SRO for next year. We are the only middle school without an SRO.
 - Officer Matt - has been coming 20% of his time to talk with students about some topics that have been a concern at DSMS. We need the education for our students.
 - There were a couple of situations where students recorded themselves and the school was able to show the parents. Communication to parents is important.
- UPC Report (Laura & Erica)
 - Last meeting is tomorrow - Closing Bell with Dr. Courson
 - Public Library summer reading

- PV Community Food Bank - if we do a food drive next year please consider donating to them.
- UPC Technology Survey
- UPC Teacher Appreciation Ceremony was great!
- Governing Board invited our choirs to the meeting on Thursday - students should be there at 6pm

Additional Items to discuss

Questions?

Upcoming PTO Meetings: