

Cougar Council PTSO October 5, 2020 Board Meeting

Meeting Participants: Megan Huffman, Deb Christensen, Jennifer Fabrizio, Sarah Fazzino, Vicki Merritt, Antoinette Enohmbi, and Alex Roets via Microsoft Teams

Some participants were unable to log on via Microsoft Teams so they participated via phone. Those participants included: Kim Kivimaki, Dee Swanson, and Karen Conklin.

Not present: Carol Taldo and Renee Stainback

The meeting was called to order by Megan Huffman at 5:41pm
Deb Christensen recorded the meeting but was unable to post it to the website.

The meeting minutes were presented for the September meeting conducted on August 31, 2020.
Motion for approval by Sarah Fazzino, a second to approve by Antoinette. Voted for approval at 5:42pm

Time was provided for the Principal's Report, but Principal Merritt was not available. Once available, she will provide her update.

Dee Swanson proposed an October Hospitality Event for the 22 of the month to include a Sign Up Genius recruitment to provide candy bags for the teachers, COVID protected.

There will be a Senior Style Event in late October/ early November.

Treasurer's Report

Jennifer Fabrizio provided the budget via email prior to the meeting. (This is available in print form in the Secretary's devoted CATA notebook upon request.)

On September 22, 2020, the budget was presented for approval, voted on by all PTSO members, and passed with no further discussion.

Current Budget- Issues to Discuss

How is money provided for the budget?

Invest in Excellence goal is \$10,000 (capital budget), Membership Dues

Where does the money go? **Student Life, Hospitality, Senior Scholarships**

There are separate departments within the budget, and we want to ensure we do not mix funds. Athletics and Performing Arts maintain separate accounts for their unique needs.

The General PTSO budget receives funding via the membership dues.

Fundraisers are also available via Valentine's Day project and Amazon Smile.

Hospitality has spent \$228 of their \$600 budget.

PTSO set a goal of 300 members, only 156 joined at this time. At the end of September, \$1560 went towards PTSO membership. Due to COVID and current financial difficulties, the membership cannot be pushed. Jennifer reminded the board we want to remain in the "green", whatever comes in, we can give. \$50 in Office Supplies will be provided.

Student Life is new to the budget, but it was decided this was needed to boost morale during COVID times. We agreed to support the Guidance department as needed.

Megan Huffman suggested adjusting the budget as needed with discussion and approval by the board.

A senior event pass was proposed for \$30.
The senior signs could fund some needs within the budget as well.

Jennifer agreed to bring the budget to our attention each month to include a current view and discussion during the board meeting.

Jennifer did address that when a hospitality event Sign Up Genius event email arrives in her inbox it fills up prior to her volunteering. "Can we look at it in a different way?" What other options are available? Could PTSO provide for individual events, including catering to meet current COVID guidelines?

Looking at Hospitality, \$228 spent out of a planned \$600 budget.
The request was made if needed, funds could be moved around.
Check with Jenn prior to spending.

It was mentioned that some parents would be willing to donate cash to meet the needs of these hospitality events.

In addition, parents would volunteer to donate money, with nominations from the Guidance department, for yearbooks and prom tickets

Megan proposes to watch spending in all events and aspects of our budget.

Otherwise, the budget looks good.

Invest in Excellence (IIE) goal was met, it was proposed to leave the link on the website to continue request for funding.

It was proposed that any excess above our IIE goal funds move to Student Life.

Jennifer stated IIE money should be spoken publicly, and "benefits the entire population"

Principal Merritt arrived at the meeting.

As of 9/30 the IIE fund had \$9775.43. Old business was discussed to provide 50% of the funding for **Turn it In** technology. The cost is \$3335, with half provided by PTSO at a cost of \$1667.50. Principal Merritt added that CATA is a college preparatory school, and similar platforms are utilized by colleges. All departments use this technology. It is licensed to the school for 1 year.

Motion called by Sarah Fazzino for approval, Antoinette Enohmbi seconded, and all were in favor with verbal confirmation.

IIE will also go towards Window Wraps, coverings, around the Fish Bowl and Distance Learning Lab via discounts by the photography provider for the school, CADY at a cost of \$3796.90.

Sarah voted for approval first, Jennifer provided the second, all were in favor via verbal approval.

per Megan: Renee, chair of Performing Arts, was not available for the meeting. She requests the meeting minutes and has nothing to report.

per Megan: Carol, Communications Director Senior chair, not available for the meeting. Report given that nearly all Senior signs and packages, etc., were delivered to students. More discussion of a special event to occur in late October or early November will be discussed. Also, PTSO hopes to plan for a special senior treat.

Report from Dee, chair of the Hospitality Committee included the Trick or Treat snack bags for teachers. She reported that due to COVID we are unable to provide sheet birthday cakes for each month as done in previous years. A suggestion was made to purchase individual cupcakes for staff in their respective birthday months. Sarah suggested parents donate a Nothing Bundt Cake to individual teachers in celebration of their birthday. Students could also adopt a teacher. No further discussion at this time.

Principal Merritt provided some mood boosters for staff including CATA masks, and shirts ordered. All of these provided by funding from the school. Principal Merritt complimented PTSO for working as a team along with the staff.

Sarah provided an update on the By-Laws Committee. A virtual meeting will occur this evening (10/5/2020) at 7pm. The by-laws committee will provide a submission for approval at the next board meeting.

Via Megan: Carol plans a quarterly newsletter highlighting the events completed by PTSO. Mention was given of Dee's September Popcorn project provided for the teachers.

PTSO Membership of Staff was addressed, Principal Merritt stated there was a link available. The staff member participants were named, and available upon request, not published here to maintain privacy. The cost of membership for staff is \$10. Deb offered to collect the money in the library for convenience and financial concerns. With the membership fee completed online, the total comes to \$11.30 with the associated service fee.

Megan reminded us that the Turn it in Software met with approval by the board.

Board members were asked to brainstorm fundraiser ideas to bring money in to fund projects including money for Senior Scholarships Brainstorm ideas to boost staff membership in PTSO.

Performing Arts could donate a senior scholarship.

Jennifer suggested in years past at other schools there were fundraisers such as selling candy bars at a low charge. If implemented, these could be sold during First Block or a Lunch Block. However, the concern came from money exchanging hands during our COVID situation. Jennifer suggested students would be more open to buying the candy knowing the money would fund fellow students' education.

Kim suggest from a fundraising standpoint she would contact local dentists and orthodontists to provide financial donations to CATA. They may prefer to donate to our school rather than Weddington, Cuthbertson, and Marvin Ridge.

Kim plans to send emails to local grocery stores and retail outlets to donate items that meet current COVID restrictions to provide for the school staff.

Alex Roets, student body president and student representative, expressed concerns for the handling of money for the candy sale. Sarah volunteered the PTSO board to collect the jars with appropriate COVID measures to keep all safe on Fridays. The hope is to make plans post COVID to make these events viable and fundraise to increase the spending budget.

Deb Christensen and Principal Merritt announced a facility upgrade for the media center funded by UCPS to remove and replace carpet with more vibrant colors, addition of vinyl flooring at the entrance with an appearance of hardwoods, cubbies will be removed, along with associated the associated concrete pads underneath. The security gates will no longer be present. A flat screen 70 inch television will be added to the entrance. A variety of seating will be added to include soft seating, and bar-height seating. Finally, a

burgundy wall will accent the new additions to represent CATA colors. The suggestion was made to celebrate with a COVID safe opening, providing for appropriate social distancing. It was noted that the media center is used as a classroom for students.

Alex made us aware that Student Council and other Student organizations extended their deadlines for membership. Today is also Blue Up day nationwide. Alex provided his email for all students to email him with questions or concerns. This is available upon request to maintain privacy.

He suggested a way to raise money via a PTSO livestream.

He spoke with Principal Merritt about a recent email suggesting some morale boosting efforts to include a Google Meet for each grade level to socialize. His primary concern was Freshmen and Seniors. New students are not able to meet all their peers from all the county feeder schools during these limited COVID classroom time. Alex also suggested Break Out Room and Trivia during these Meet ups.

Principal Merritt said written is better for her and she plans to respond to Alex's email. The school purchased a Zoom license and this option may better meet the needs of students in comparison with Google Meet due to its limitations in respect to time and number of participants.

Alex received accolades for his participation.

Megan adjourned the meeting at 6:33pm

Submitted by Karen Conklin, PTSO Secretary