

PTG Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2021

Meeting called to order at 9:36 AM in the Junior High library.

In attendance: PTG Board: Anne Steels, Treasurer, Carol Kessler, Secretary, Dianne Breitstone, Membership, Lynette Simmons, President, Lisa Smith, Committees.

BOE: Amy Brogan, Tara Belfi

Administration: Jill Gierasch, Superintendent, Dan Danbusky, Principal, Danielle Beach, Teacher

PTG Board individually introduced ourselves.

The president called for the minutes to be approved. Edina Bobelian approved, Lisa Smith seconded.

Board Announcements:

Treasurer report: Anne Steels

Copies of the PTG's financial statement is at the back of the room for anyone interested. We've had a great start to the year. Last year there was no Literary Luncheon or other profit making activity so we had a profit coming into this year of \$469.45 which was smaller than in previous years. Our starting point for this year was \$27,547. Our membership compared to last year has greatly increased. So far this year we have raised \$9934.46. Our goal was \$9000 so we are already exceeding that figure. There's been a few fundraisers in addition to money collected for memberships. We've sold last year's leftover Yeti cups this year for a total of \$240. We had a fall apparel fundraiser which raised \$713 which was slightly over the \$700 anticipated. The Vineyard Vines fundraiser has sold 475 shirts to date, and we are hoping to net \$4500 from that fundraiser. Thank you Dianne and Lisa for your efforts with this fundraising initiative. In terms of expenses, our budget was \$1000 for fees and we're at \$997. These fees included last year's zoom fees, fees for virtual meetings, and PayPal fees. The budget will have to be adjusted accordingly. We've had beautification expenses as well. Thank you Desiree for the beautiful job you did decorating the outside of the school for fall. We just had our Back to School Breakfast for our administrators and teachers that cost \$611, \$11 over budget. Thank you to Lisa and Carol for that. Treasurer report concludes.

President added that we are looking at increasing our beautification budget, and the budget gets slightly adjusted throughout the year based on our inflows and outflows.

Membership: Dianne Breitstone

We are at approximately 220 families; there are 600 in the school. This is an increase over our membership percentage last year at this time.

At the end of October we will have a t-shirt raffle. All member families are eligible to win.

If anyone hasn't received a directory and has a paid membership, I have the directories with me and will give you yours today.

The last school-wide Weekly Notes was last Sunday, going forward they will only be sent to members.

Committees: Lisa Smith

The Staff Appreciation Breakfast went well. It was Covid friendly, as everything was individually wrapped. Positive feedback was received from the staff.

Junior High Activities is planning an evening event, details will be provided soon.

Sign up sheets for various committees are located in the back of the room. You are encouraged to sign up for what interests you.

Featured Speaker: Mrs. Beach, Social Studies teacher Global 10 and Technology Coach for the Junior/Senior High School

Mrs. Beach presented on the Canvas software system and how to use it. She's also the technology coach for the Junior/Senior High school, and does Ed Tech support for the faculty of the school. Canvas is how a large majority of the teachers deliver and collect assignments to and from the students. When a student signs in to canvas the first screen that pops up is the dashboard screen upon which there is a "to do" list. There is also a calendar reflecting assignments and due dates for all subjects. Students can see what's coming up, and all subjects are color coded. Viewing "course calendar" gives future assignments for one class. The main difference between the parent canvas software and the student canvas software is that on the parent canvas software assignments can not be submitted. How to create a canvas parent account? Two steps: step one involves going onto your students canvas calendar. Your child will then click on the little silhouette avatar on the top left. Then go to settings. Will then receive "a pair with observer" option. A one time pair code will be received. Write this down. Then go to the Cold Spring Harbor webpage to create an account by following the prompts. Some teachers have linked Remind to their canvas accounts. The Canvas calendar can be synced into an E-calendar via a calendar feed. This can be done through either the child's or parent's canvas account. You can also receive personalized notifications, either push notifications or texts, for missing or late assignments by enabling this in settings. Teachers can be reached via the Canvas inbox tab but they do not routinely check there so be sure to follow up with them. To view this tutorial at home, simply go to the Cold Spring Harbor Ed Tech Channel.

Parent Group Announcements:

Literary Luncheon: Sandra Reilly, Chair

Please save the date of Wednesday, April 13, 2022. It will be the first Literary Luncheon in two years. We're looking for volunteers to help us pull the event together. Sign up sheets are in the rear. The book is "The Exiles" by Christina Baker Kline.

SEPTO: Suzanne Adelhardt

SEPTO is looking for members. You do not need to have a child that receives services to join.

We are, with Focus, presenting a screening of the documentary "Angst". It will be held on Wednesday, October 20 at 7 PM in the PAC with a discussion to follow. The subject of this film is rising anxiety in our children. There is a QR code set up to submit questions. The purpose of this method is that questions can be asked anonymously.

Tuesday at 9:45 will be SEPTO's second meeting of the school year. The speaker will be discussing executive function skills, with a discussion about different learning styles.

Arts Booster Club

No one was able to attend from the Arts Booster club so Lisa Smith made their announcements.

They are looking for members.

This year they will be supporting all live events, nothing remote or Zoom. They are planning on updating the All County and All State music plaques by the PAC, and have a \$6000 scholarship for seniors this year. Please contact Dana Lynch with questions.

Mr. Danbusky, Principal

Please attend SEPTO's presentation, especially if you have a junior high school aged child. Adjusting from an elementary school atmosphere which has much more teacher oversight on pupils to the junior high which doesn't is a large change and many children have trouble adjusting. The school works very closely with Dr. Main, who is their speaker for the 10/19 meeting.

Both back to school nights were very successful. There were slightly less than 200 people for the junior high back to school night and slightly under 400 people attended the back to school senior high night. It was great that it was in person and not remote. The school is trying to make as many events in person as possible.

The kids were very excited about making posters for the pep rally. A large number participated. Great atmosphere Friday night at Homecoming.

Mr. Danbusky has received many questions about junior high community service. If your child is planning on applying to the National Junior Honor Society, there's a requirement of 20 hours. If your child is eligible to apply to the society a letter will go out the month of February in the eighth grade with instructions. Community service begins accruing the summer after sixth grade ends.

The school may hold a "parent university" session in which community service, grade point average calculation, etc. will be explained.

A parent asked for advice/instruction on managing a preteen especially in light of social media. SEPTO and FOCUS would be good resources for that.

President thanked the administration and BOE members for attending our meeting.

Karen Moser, Director of Humanities

Karen Moser is looking for opportunities for students to experience humanities in the "outside world" through internships and networking in the humanities fields. If any parents may know of any opportunities she would appreciate being advised.

A parent asked about attendance requirements of members on the PTG Board. President advised that it is imperative that board members attend meetings, and that we currently have (and have had) working parents on past boards. It is hard to attend all meetings but must be a priority. The bylaws indicate that there is flexibility in that three missed meetings are allowed.

The process of the selection of parent volunteers on the DEI committee was outlined. Parent volunteers will be chosen out of a hat during the next CPC meeting. The president advised that she has recused herself from consideration.

The next PTG meeting is to be held at 9:30 AM at the junior high library on Tuesday, November 9.

Meeting adjourned at 10:57 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Kessler
Secretary