Scarlett Middle School PTSO

Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2025 – 6:30pm

The purpose of this Organization shall be:

1. To promote the intellectual, physical, and emotional health of Scarlett students in the school and community at large.
2. To provide forums and opportunities for communication and cooperation among parents, teachers, school building administration, school district administration and the community at large.
3. To engage in fundraising activities, to generate funds, to offer/provide for diverse and educational enrichment support/programs for students and staff.

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Attendance:
Sarah Anton, Karen Hulsebus, Gerald Vasquez, Kevin Jeffery, Victoria Engling, Celia Williams, Kelly Pfeifer, Erika Washburn, Leslie Baugh, Ryan Quinn, Samantha Quinn, Jenn Hudgins (Zoom) & Natalie Turner.

Welcome
Meeting called to order by Karen Hulsebus at 6:35 pm.

Introductions of attendees

Need to approve the minutes for January and February.

Kevin motions to approve minutes; Celia seconds. All in favor.

President's Report
Dine to Donate-Banditos and Papa Johns brought in about $150 each. No other fundraisers planned for the remainder of the year. If anyone knows of any fundraisers, please let the board know.

Exec Board elections in May. Nominations are open and the link has been shared. Nomination committee will discuss this process and those nominated and make a decision on who moves forward. The terms are two years. There is some flexibility here (requires a vote to overturn the 2 year limit). Although the committee will determine a slate, others are able to run.

Karen, Natalie, and Celia sold spirit wear at Family Fun Night. Not too many sales, but some. Kinda plans another sale and there will be additional opportunities to purchase and a few other events.

Feedback received about the fundraiser. There were concerns about the processing fees, etc. Some parents reached out with the large number of fees (5-13%).

Principal's Report - Mr. Vazquez and Dr. Peterson

At the onset of the fundraiser, parents reached out after the promo sheet went out. The sheet talks about being eligible for the "Best Day Ever" if you donate $50. This was clarified for parents. Awaiting a response about the large processing fee. Five days in and at 30% of the fundraising goal. Kids are receiving cool prizes, 6 kids daily are drawn randomly. This fundraiser generates easy money for minimal labor, but open to PTSO moving in another direction or to other companies. We mentioned it in the February meeting and moved forward.

Testing season is coming soon. Stressful for 8th graders due to the amount of testing.The district requires NWEA 3 times, MStep, PSAT, and finals in classes. Some students will experience undue stress. Parents, please encourage students to do their best. College entrance isn't determined by these scores. They are valuable and determine where they stand academically. Many factors determine how students perform, i.e. rest.

End of 8th grade year. Riverboat information will come after spring break as well as farewell ceremony.

PSAT discussion- Important to learn test taking, test prep can be helpful, school will share the value with students when the time comes

Perk for Academic Society-Celia inquired with B.I.G, Kevin did not hear from his contact at B.I.G, Gerald priced Rolling Hills, that price is $2600 (busses and entry, bag lunch for the kids from the school), looking at May 28th, the challenge with the movies is what's playing," is that what everyone would like? Rain contingency: 8th graders could come back the last week of school, if available.

Treasurer Report- Kelly Pfeifer

The treasurers noted that we have brought in $10,855.61 and have spent $21,224.63. Still have healthy balances. On paper, we are in the hole, however, many funds come in at the end of the year.

We really have been able to support classrooms this year, headphones, supplies for special education teachers, books, metronomes, art supplies, etc. It feels good to support classroom goals. Choir teacher asked for PTSO to purchase the tickets for parents to attend the Huron event. Tickets were purchased.

Tickets purchased from Ms. Fitz for Bands in Review benefit Scarlett. Tickets purchased at Huron go to Huron. If we need to set aside money to support these efforts we could certainly do that.

Kelly and Sarah have been brainstorming around not accepting fundraising funds from PTOC, if offered. Gerald lifted perhaps if we don't take it, it could go to one of our feeder schools.

Lengthy Discussion.

Concerns were lifted around not accepting funds. Concern lifted the lack of field trips, etc. and why we would not accept money if funding has been an issue. Fund balance is healthy and people have been encouraged to use and ask for support. Examples of 8th graders that have not been on any field trips since they arrived at Scarlett.

Celia would like to ensure the students from Academic Society are taken care of healthily.

Greatest fundraiser we have is PTO Thrift. We receive funds year round.

Gerald raised the idea of a field trip for student council members. These are the students who have worked hard and deserve to be recognized.

Karen is concerned about the culture at Scarlett of not spending money. This is an exec board trying to spend money. Angry that kids have not been able to benefit from these funds. Looking for a culture shift and would hope when the board changes, they don't revert back to the culture of holding on to so many funds.

Grade Level trips perhaps? Increase line item and provide each grade a budget for field trips. Maybe send a student survey to garner interest in trips? Staff drafts a list first before sending a survey.

8th grade trip - concern raised that 3 other middle schools are going to Cedar Point and one school is doing the Princess boat AND Cedar Point. The continued inequity for Scarlett is frustrating for many.

Next Steps

- Potential decision about not accepting money from PTOC or accepting and gifting to other schools.
- Budget meeting to hash out financials for next year, considering field trips, information from teachers, other line items, etc.

Student Council Update - Ms. Baugh

Students were going to present this evening, but there is a home basketball game tomorrow.

Candy grams: $860 raised, $643 in expenses, inflation contributed

Family Fun Night, estimated 364, 100 less than the fall (Ramadan, weather may have impacted) $1769, expenses $1100

Upcoming events: 8th grade boat ($700 decorations/prizes last year), promotion (would like PTSO to buy 8th graders a t-shirt to match the theme of the dance which is a luau)

Tabled for next month: Discussion about field trips for next year, other line items that may need to be added to the budget

8:11 pm meeting adjourned.

Executive Board: President: Karen Hulsebus, Vice President: Kevin Jeffery, Treasurer #1: Sarah Anton, Treasurer #2: Kelly Pfeifer, Corresponding Secretary: Vicki Engling, Recording Secretary: Natalie Turner, PTOC Representative: Celia Williams