SCARLETT MIDDLE SCHOOL PTSO

Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2025 – 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Our Mission: To facilitate close cooperation among parents, teachers, and students in order to raise funds for a variety of enrichment opportunities and foster a strong learning community!

Welcome and Introductions

- Attending: Victoria Engling, Richard King, Kelly Pfeifer (treasurer), Shannon Dunn (treasurer), Kevin Jeffery (president), Sam Quinn, Ryan Quinn, Omar Sowe (vice-president), Lisa Walkenbach, Jenni Hawes (corresponding secretary), Faye Askew-King, Sera Bergman (student), Kendrick Taylor (student), Leslie Baugh (student council advisor), Tenley Hawes (student), Ashley Tellez, Tim Vaduva, Leslie Trahan, Kristen Ochomogo, Ian Ochomago-Stuco (student), Latrice Flake, Raquel Parker (PTCO rep), Gerald Vasquez (Principal)

Student Council Updates: from Sera Bergman & Kendrick Taylor

- Sports: Boys soccer, Boys and Girls volleyball and cross country have started
- Student council elections for President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. All students are encouraged to vote. Nominations open November 8th-9th, campaigning November 8th-November 19th, and elections on November 24th, results are announced November 26th.
- Open house on Thursday, November 11th.
- Picture day on Thursday, November 11th.
- Pink Out for Breast Cancer awareness every Wednesday in October – students encouraged to wear pink and collect spare change for choice of bubble gum or temporary tattoo.
- Socktober–more information coming soon
- Run Scream Run on Saturday, October 11th. 5K run at Wiard's Orchard. Student Council will be there to support.
- Costume and Halloween Day on Friday, October 31st–parameters in place for costumes.
- Candy drive: collecting left over or unwanted Halloween candy. Prizes to top donors on Monday, November 3rd.
- Canned food and essentials drive Nov 3rd-Dec 16th. Students will collect non-perishables and hygiene essentials and distribute them before Winter break.
- Family Fun Night on Friday, November 22nd. Dinosaur theme (color green, orange and black). Donations needed: soda, candy bars, Dino-shapped nuggets, dark gray, light gray and black paint.
- Turkey Trot on Tuesday, November 25th at the end of day: Collecting canned food, non-perishables, toiletry items, students can earn a free 2024 Turkey Trot t-shirt if they bring in 3 or more paper grocery bags full of items.

- Ms. Baugh: acknowledges student intention with scheduling events around testing dates, open to new ideas, considering addition of hats to spirit wear options

Principal Report–Gerald Vasquez

- Student pictures: all students get picture taken and pictures can be ordered by families
- Open house curriculum night upcoming on Thursday. Important opportunity for families to meet teachers and staff and become familiar with the campus.
- Road runner update: issue with school messenger system has limited ability to send out voicemail and emails to families. Messages were delayed and 6th grade families received messages today.
- Pick up and drop off: reinforcing safety and courtesy/patience, encouraging families to reach out with any issues.
- U of M interns on campus: emails sent out to give details on the program and give families the option to opt out of working with interns.
- NWEA in Math and Lang & Lit: more information about that next week
- Ending of universal free lunch October 1st, encouraged families to fill out free and reduced lunch eligibility forms to help assess need and for district tracking.
- Gratitude to PTSO members and those in attendance, gratitude to student council members for their work, Ms. Baugh
- Hoping to get Zoom available for next PTSO meeting

Approval of May Minutes

Kevin opens for minutes from the May meeting to be approved, confirming that meeting minutes were posted in email and available for review. Motion passed to approve minutes.

President's Report - Kevin Jeffery

- **Spirit wear:**
    1) Ideas to promote spirit wear sales and opportunity to sell at events.
    2) Ms. Baugh: create spirit week where students are encouraged to wear spirit wear to boost sales
    3) Principal Vasquez: Discussed selling at curriculum night/open house and future online options. Kevin discussed plans to get current inventory counts and possibly sell current stock at the event.
    4) Jenny is interested in Spirit wear coordinator position (dual roles in addition to corresponding sec), recommended utilizing a website (Squad Locker) that the athletic department uses to customize spirit wear options, has higher end and more affordable options, and also pop up shops with lower prices to increase equity.
    5) Faye suggests creating donation options where families can donate to subsidized spirit wear for families that need it.
- **Open positions:**
    1) Recording secretary: Kevin puts forth motion to vote Ashley Tellez as recording secretary, Executive board approves motion.
    2) Teacher appreciation role: still open–thanks to Celia and Nat for a great job last year. Will post on-going need for a volunteer in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report & Budgeting - Shannon and Kelly

- Principal Vasquez-appreciates any efforts to limit fundraising to avoid overwhelming parents
- Faye-consider monthly donations that parents can set up to lower obstacles and help with budgetary planning through the year
- Year to date finances: fiscal year starts July 1st. Has since brought in $6,000–$4,000 from "Taylor corp" (uncertain who they are), delayed deposits from 8th grade end of year event and $129 from Kroger. Has spent to date: yearbook payment, reimbursement to student council, insurance and dues to state to stay corporation, bank fees (that we may dispute).
- Proposed budget: Has $85,000 in savings, adding lines to categorize spending for better tracking such as grants for counseling services and athletics, ticket sales for eighth grade event, spending down $20,000 of savings.
- Hope to raise $20,000 this year–were able to raise $20,000 last year but only kept 40% due to the cost of the fundraising event. Hoping to find more cost-effective fundraising.
- PTOC equity fundraiser with PTO thrift match: Scarlett only gets match from thrift match but not from fund–$7,000 we were anticipated but are not getting.
- Last year we hosted end of year parties for student council members and for the academic honor society. Will continue those events this year.
- Decreasing budget for teacher appreciation in anticipation of receiving event-specific donations at time of need.
- Field trips: goal to increase field trips opportunities, difficulty with costs and size of student classes. Trips to U of M, Hill Auditorium, importance of link to curriculum/learning objectives. Possibility of smaller groups using public transportation. Possibility of transportation grants available–need for planning to apply. Options to bring speakers to school.
- Teacher grants available: encourage teacher use of available funds with administration approval.
- Lisa inquires about directing funds to athletics for gear. Per Principal Vasquez: historically those needs not brought to PTSO as middle school sports are not prioritized, historically uses separate scholarship funds, admits there is still a high need. Discussion about specific gear acquisition through external donations such as Facebook groups outside of school. Will coordinate with administration and coaches to assess needs. Discussion about financial assistance for sport fees–per Principal Vasquez is still available and offered by athletic coaches.
- $500 for an interdisciplinary event will remain a budget line, for example multiple academic departments will coordinate events such as "Olympics" last year.
- 6th grade t-shirts will be added back on budget–$2,000
- Hospitality budget: for providing food and snacks for teachers and staff when they need to stay late for school events, occasional snacks during school day
- Kelly proposes approval of the new budget, Principal Vasquez seconds. All in favor–motion passes.

Open Discussion

- Invest in Michigan Kids–State-wide initiative to get proposal on ballot for school funding

Meeting adjourned: Kevin motions to close meeting. Motion approved.

Attendance List:

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