

## **PCHS PTSO Meeting**

**September 17, 2020**

**Members In Attendance:** Jennifer Aldous (Co-President), Tiffany Shewell (Co-President), Julie Strople (Treasurer), Amy O'Reilly (Secretary), Heather Sims, Kelly Vendetti, Phidias Cinaglia and Shannon Warner (Members-at-Large), Roger Arbabi (Principal), Sheccid Mejia, Yazlii Quintana, and Sofie Ballanti (student council representatives), Tara Stocker, Aimee Preston, Kim Abbett, Molly Efrusy, and Heather Flynn

**Jennifer called the meeting to order at 9:00am.**

### **Principal's report:**

Mr. Arbabi gave an overview of start of school. He thanked the PTSO for providing the food for a successful back-to-school night.

He highlighted that the teachers and administration are doing a lot of reinventing and that he is proud of the ongoing effort. Teachers are really struggling with some of the issues like remote learners and synchronous class management. There has been a ton of juggling and they are doing an awesome job!

We are four weeks away from the end of the first quarter. Parents can expect two surveys from the district in their inboxes soon. The first asks parents to plan for the second quarter and indicate their "come back" plans. The second will be seeking feedback re: changing to Friday for early release day, which will allow more time for teachers to help remote learners.

On Oct 20 PCHS will offer pre ACT exams to sophomores and juniors. The results will be used to drive class instruction. Students will also receive the data to help with their ACT prep. On that same day, seniors will meet with counselors in the Eccles center to work on college applications.

COVID counts – PCHS had just one active case last week. It is apparent that this student contracted the virus off-campus. As soon as the family know of a positive test, they had their child removed from school and tested. The administration was

able to contact trace. Everybody within six feet of this students for more than 15 minutes (24 students) was sent home to quarantine for 14 days.

Mr. Arbabi noted that students are very good about wearing masks at school, but they come off in the parking lot and kids load into cars together.

Jennifer asked whether the students need to register for the pre-ACT.

Registration will be done at school on testing day. Mr. Arbabi also noted that if a parent does not want his/her student to take the Pre ACT, the student does not need to attend school for the morning of Oct 20.

### **Student Council Update:**

Sheccid Mejia (Sr), Yazlii Quintana (So), and Sofie Ballanti (So) reported. The student council has been helping the student body follow the COVID regulations while trying to offer some of the usual student council programming.

Back-to-school: They hosted a virtual back to school assembly with the help of Senior Cam Holt's videography.

Football games: The school has been issuing 175 tickets for students and parents to each home game. The council has been "rocking" the selling of merch at the games.

Homecoming: Unfortunately, the dance, pep rally and bonfire had to be cancelled this year. Nonetheless, homecoming week went well with themed days each day. On Wed student council hosted a free drive-in movie. Students wore masks unless they were eating. The student council served snacks with gloves and other precautions. Homecoming Court was different this year because there was no dance or pep rally. The court was announced and celebrated during halftime at the homecoming game last Friday. "It went amazing!"

Other things: The student council will again have a KPCW talk show this year. They have a student opportunity drawing planned. Funding is short because last year's prom was cancelled, and prom proceeds generally fund the following year's activities.

Tiffany and Jen thanked the students and applauded the student council's productivity and effectiveness despite the restrictions! Thank you for the work that you are doing to keep morale high in this difficult year!

### **Minutes:**

Julie moved to approve the August 6, 2020 meeting minutes and Tiffany seconded the motion. **The August 6, 2020 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.**

### **School Community Council:**

Aimee Preston reported. The SCC's first 2020-21 meeting was held yesterday, 9/16. The committee heard an update from Tracy Fike and she has done a really great job and is very organized. These were the highlights:

- Last year SCC was able to spend 100% of the state land trust grant which totaled \$250k. Spending all funds can be difficult when the unexpected happens as it did last year but they did a great job!
- Tracy shared with the committee a \$199k budget for 2020-21 which was approved last year based on expected land trust grants. All funds will be used in support of two goals:
  1. Prepare students for the ACT and
  2. Increasing school participation in intra/extra curricular academic activities – programs, study groups, teachers giving extra help.

Aimee asked the SCC how COVID has changed things and that was told that, so far, the district is really providing the necessary funding to teachers, so the SCC does not need to change its plan.

She also noted that Samantha Walsh (Intervention Counselor) was added to the SCC this year. In this way, the social/emotional well-being of kids will be represented as well as academics. Sam keeps a close eye on that.

Jen & Tiffany thanked Aimee for her report.

### **Financial Report:**

Julie presented the budget. We are well short of our dues budget. So far, 120 families have joined. Spread the word! Especially to new families. Please reach out to your networks and share what we do. Help us so that we can help teachers and students. It has been heard within the community that the PTSO doesn't need the budget this year because none of the programs are happening. The reality is that we will likely need more funds, especially for teacher mini-grants to support the changes this year. Any/all food/ snacks will need to be professionally prepared or prepackaged which is more expensive.

Please also remind your networks that they can link their Smith's cards and Amazon Smile accounts.

If members have PTSO-related expenses, they should submit the receipts to Julie for reimbursement.

Another shortage is funding from PCEF. The Red Apple Gala didn't happen in its usual way, so the volunteer reward was not paid. We should receive PCEF ambassador funds of \$1,000 and there is another \$1,000 available if PCEF surpasses last year's participation in beat the call. We are currently at 8.3% and we were at 16% last year so we have a long way to go. Encourage friends and family to donate on behalf of PCHS.

As noted, there was a discussion of teacher needs at the SCC meeting yesterday and, so far, the district is funding them all. However, it is likely that at some point the administration will rely on the PTSO to fill out the teacher requests. We will know more about this and about dues and PCEF funding by our next meeting on Oct 8.

2020/21 Budget Approval Vote – Amy moved to approve the draft budget, which was shared in advance of the meeting. Shannon seconded the motion. The budget was unanimously approved.

### **Membership:**

Please encourage your networks to join the PTSO. We invite any ideas that members have, to increase membership.

### **Events and Programs:**

Welcome Bags re-cap – This effort went very well. Kids were excited to receive a little something to kick off a new school year.

Back to School Dinner re-cap – This was really appreciated! So many teachers were shocked that we made it happen and they were very grateful. All of it was a little different and more expensive and we are thankful to Suzanne Vandenberg for organizing. Clockwork Café provided a variety of wraps. Unfortunately, with the budget shortfalls, we probably cannot provide this level of dinner for each conference, but it was a terrific way to start the year.

Picture Day re-cap – LifeTouch was super organized and socially distanced. We had more volunteers than we needed. The day went very smoothly. Makeup picture day is Oct 1.

Conference Meals – Monday, October 5th 3-7pm are the next conferences. Our chair will be Tara Stocker. Thank you, Tara! Conferences will be virtual. As noted, it is likely not in the budget to cater a dinner, but we will ask for donations and provide something very nice.

Mini Grants – Our chair is Kim Abbett. Applications are due by Oct 13 and we will keep you posted on the progress.

Finals Treats – discussion of logistics, options and safety during COVID-19 pandemic – Finals are the week of Oct 12-13. Generally, the PTSO has provided treats throughout the week but lollipops and bananas and parents in the building really don't work this year. Many parents have expressed that they don't feel safe entering the school to volunteer. Following a discussion, it was decided that we could use Shannon's idea and provide each teacher with a large bag of hard candy to distribute. This requires no parent volunteers and is inexpensive. We will ask for donations our use PTSO funds.

Grad Night – Everything still up in the air re: grad night. Nevertheless, we would like to get a venue reserved in the hope that our seniors will be able to have a grad night. We need a chair and volunteers. We encourage parents of younger kids to join, because seniors don't always want their parent involved.

**Directory:** Kelly reported that this should be ready by the end of month. It will be emailed to all members.

**PCEF liaison:**

PCEF Ambassadors – Our ambassadors are Kris DeMarco and Jan Mitchell. As stated earlier, we need to drive Beat the Call participation up by ~100% of present levels to beat last year and earn an additional \$1k in funding! This is a simple participation goal. Any gift amount counts toward participation.

Molly added that PCEF is trying to identify additional teacher needs – if you know of a need, please Kim or Molly know. PCEF is turning teacher grants around very fast.

**Other Business:**

Vice President Update – Suzanne stepped down because she no longer has a student at PCHS. We can operate without a VP but if you know of somebody who is interested, please let us know. The VP is a supporting role and is not tied to being the President next year.

**Meeting adjourned 9:53am.**

**Next general meeting Oct 8th, 9:00am.**