

## April 8, 2025 PTSA meeting minutes

Matt Hunt, Marika VanderSmith, Kerry Billingham, Alex Jones, Alison Bettles, Emily West-Foyle, David McKnight, Maggie Dreifuerst, Leah Rutman

- **Meeting Minutes.** Adoption of the minutes of the March PTSA meeting (available on the PTSA website) were unanimously approved.
- **Upcoming Events.** Marika went over several events coming up. See slide deck.
- **Partner Updates.**
  - **Principal Update:** Matt Hunt shared topics from his last meeting with Ms. Marshall. School social worker staying on. Librarian - discussion of her hours was tabled. Discussion about the art teacher Ms Elaine getting more hours and using her art therapy skills. PTSA would help fund that. Maggie recommended capping extra asks of the budget for the rest of the year. Also recommended we up our ask at the annual campaign next year. There was a discussion of other possible fund raisers. Marika suggested we educate parents very early in the year about what all the PTSA funds, and how important parents' contributions are. Question about losing students to Decatur. We won't know until May 31. We will know how many incoming kindergarteners there will be on May 1.
  - **Teacher Update:** Alex Jones reminded everyone that progress reports are available on The Source. SBA testing for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders is coming up for 3 weeks at the end of April.
  - **LASER:** no representative, but Matt reported that the contract will be renegotiated at the end of the year. There is new leadership at LASER so it is hoped there will be better communication. The new director will meet with Matt and Marika.
- **President's Update.**
  - **Auction:** \$29-30k raised so far. Good number. About the same as last year.
  - **Yearbook** is underway. Next year Matt and Marika want there to be an official committee, since they have been taking on most of the work.
  - **Chess Club:** likely changes coming as there are fewer parent volunteers. Marika will reach out to Clive, who runs the Afterschool Enrichment Program to check in about it, and other opportunities, like bringing back a Science club or class.
- **Treasurer's report.** See slide deck for detail. Treasurers reported on our income so far this year. The annual campaign brought in \$215k this year (\$227 last year). There is a budget audit committee currently going through everything. The budget will see some short term gains (no IXL funding this year or next), but overall we are seeking increased income. Field trip buses are not sending invoices so we can't reconcile those expenses. Question about finding a math specialist, not just a reading specialist. It was reiterated that we will increase our ask on the annual campaign next year.
- **Advocacy update.** Leah Rutman reported on recent events in the legislature. SPS has a \$94 million budget deficit. There are a lot of unknowns. There were votes to increase funding from the state, but it kept getting watered down. The legislative session ends on

April 27th. Leah suggested we request a meeting with our representatives Liza Rankin (Dir), and Evan Briggs (our district) this spring or fall. There is a June 10 PTSA General Meeting, so we will aim for that.

- Motion to adjourn the meeting was approved.