

June 10, 2025 PTSA General Membership Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m.

- Approval of May meeting minutes
 - Anna Bonnett put forward a motion to approve the minutes; Michael Polin seconded the motion; and the motion passed
- PTSA Awards
 - Alex Jones presented the staff Golden Acorn award, which is a PTSA award honoring a staff member that is nominated by the staff. This year the award went to Lynn Fahselt. Mr. Jones and Ms. Sorenson spoke about what a great colleague Ms. Fahselt is.
 - Marika VanderSmith then presented the PTSA Golden Acorn award, which is an award where nominations are taken from the school community and voted on by the PTSA Executive Committee. The award was presented to Christy Hunt for her numerous contributions to the school community. Marika noted that because Matt Hunt is her husband, he recused himself from voting on the award.
 - Next, Marika presented additional awards to PTSA members:
 - § The Unsung Hero award went to Caitlin Hine and Emily West-Foyle.
 - § The Volunteer Extraordinaire award went to Tim Sandoval.
 - § The Room Parent Champion award went to Cathy Sullivan.
- Upcoming Events
 - Matt Hunt then spoke about upcoming events through the end of the school year. The end of the year assembly is on June 12 and 5th grade graduation is on June 17th. The last day of school is June 18.
- Partner Updates
 - Dr. Marshall then provided an update. She started by thanking the overall community for their support of the school. Dr. Marshall then highlighted that a focus this year was to include more social emotional learning at the school and in her view that went well.
 - Mr. Jones then spoke on behalf of the teachers, thanking the PTSA for supporting the staff and the school overall. He then noted that the school hosted

a new family night last week. 50+ families of the 70+ new families were in attendance.

- Presidents Updates

- Matt started by thanking the community and the PTSA board and volunteers for their hard work this year. He also noted that we had a successful open house for new families.
- Marika then highlighted a new pilot program that will begin next year. Ms. Elaine will start coming on days when Diego, the school social worker, is not available. She will have a room where she can see kids who need more support. The kids will be either self-identified or identified by teachers. Creative Advantage and the PTSA will fund the pilot.

- Advocacy Update

- Leah Rutman started by thanking Matt and Marika for their work on the school closure issue, especially while the advocacy chair position was open. She noted that school board member Gina Topp has said that the school board is not interested in rediscussing closures next year.
- Leah then highlighted the work done by the school community on legislation to fund school. The result of the legislative session is that we got rid of the special education cap. This and the increase in materials funding will help close the budget gap projected by the district. Leah also noted that the school board is currently saying that they have closed the budget gap for next year, but it is just not sustainable.
- Dr. Marshall stated that we are still waiting on the school's final budget which should come out next week. She noted that we will lose some students because of the choice and HCC process. Dr. Marshall also noted that our initial allotment did not give us the right special education staffing and that she is appealing that decision.
- Leah then went through the explanation of how the district closed the budget gap for the budget based on information on the district website.
- Finally, school board elections are on November 4. Leah noted that we asked our school board Evan Briggs to come and speak with the school community but she declined saying she was busy all spring.

- Volunteer Committee Update

- Anna Bonnett and Kelly King French started by thanking the volunteers and reiterating that folks should sign up to volunteer. Anna emphasized that they will be reaching out specifically for K and 1st families to get them involved.

- Nominating Committee Update

- Anna Bonnett shared the process for nominating a slate of candidates for Executive Committee roles for next year. She walked through the election process, which is that the slate of candidates is presented to the membership who votes on the slate. The slate for this 2024-2025 school year is reflected in the meeting materials.
- A motion to approve the slate was put forth by Michal Polin and seconded by Tiffany Courtnage. The membership approved the motion.
- Next, the slate of nominees for the remaining PTSA Board positions (that do not comprise the Executive Committee) were put forward. This slate of nominee is voted on by the Executive Committee. Tiffany Courtnage moved to approve the slate. David McKnight seconded the motions, and the Executive Committee approved the motion.

- 2025-2026 Budget

- Handouts of the budget and budget summary were passed out to members.
- Maggie Dreifurst walked the membership through the budget proposal. She noted that we have ~\$38,000 in carry over from this year's budget to next year's budget based on current projections. Part of this is due to the carry over from the prior year. She also noted that we had lower than expected software expenses this year due to the district decision not to allow use of IXL. With that surplus we have an available budget of about \$306,000 for next year. Using that amount, the budget committee which is comprised of a number of PTSA members put forward a proposed budget for next year. A few items were noted regarding the proposed budget:
 - § Last year, the annual campaign came in about \$10,000 less than budgeted. We think this is because the school closure announcement came out at the same time as the campaign.
 - § The PTSA would like to collapse the restricted accounts that are dormant and bring those funds in general budget.
 - § We have another~ \$45K in reserves that are not being utilized to fund the budget for next year.
- The PTSA membership asked questions regarding the budget proposal:

§ The membership discussed why we underspend on curricular materials compared to our budgeted amounts and how this kind of underspending leads to impacts on how we project annual campaign.

§ The membership discussed ways to spend additional funds if we end up in surplus again, including AV in the gym and playground refresh. The group agreed that we should closely monitor our spending throughout the year to try to redirect funds to projects instead of continuously running a surplus

§ Funding for the school play was discussed. It was noted this is not included in the budget because it is a restricted account that is self funded. The play leads asked for an understanding of the amount in that account which the Treasurer team will provide.

- Collapsing the restricted accounts was then discussed in great detail. The accounts that are dormant are in the meeting materials. In addition to not having any record of use of these funds, Mr. Jones and the PTSA board members confirmed that no one is aware of any individuals associated with these restricted accounts since it is likely that the community members leading these clubs have moved on. It was also noted that the PTSA has a procedure in its standing rules to close restricted accounts, which requires a vote of the general membership.

- Anna Bonnet moved to collapse the restricted accounts and approve the proposed budget. Tiffany Courtnage seconded the motions. The motion passed.

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned