



## **PSO General Meeting Minutes**

### **February 14, 2025**

**Board Attendees:** Rosa Kim, Nika Davis, Amanda Shearer, Tiffany Hill, Aimee Avery

**Missing:** Mark McAfee, Major Kindsfater, Kara Stanek, Angela Badura, Veronica Palmieri

**Additional Attendees:** Travis Clement, Marisa Lengel-Zigich, Zelna Fourie, Jenee McCormick, Natasha Mendez, Jerri Gallatin, Jen Lott, Jennifer Holyoak, Marisa Speed, Genna Fessinger, Colleen Bedell, Meghann Woo, Val Guttman, Brenda Kimberly, Poonam Kshatriya, Dana Feffer, Lisamarie Palmer

8:00am In person meeting start

#### **President (Nika Davis)**

- General welcome and meeting kick-off.
- The Winter formal was great.
- The Middle school social at Sky Zone was very well attended and they had fun.
- Our Teacher appreciation luncheon was football themed with a BBQ food truck. The teachers enjoyed it.
- We had the Junior breakfast yesterday. It went well.
- School Supplies - Zelna Fourie is working on school supplies for next year.
- Prom - is coming up on April 26th and the committee chairs need volunteers. An email went out last week. Please sign up.
- Ultimate frisbee - is coming up on March 21st. It is a fun community event, the sign up went out in the weekly update. Team sign ups will be available soon.
- 8th grade promotion - we will need volunteers. More details to come. Please sign up and get involved.

**Headmaster (Marisa Lengel-Zigich for McAfee)**

- Mr. McAfee is at Hillsdale College at a job fair recruiting teachers. We are getting underway with the hiring process for next year.
- It has been a good sports year. The Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer, and Boys Basketball teams are in the playoffs.
- Senior selections for the current Juniors - they have a couple options. New to Rhetoric - a portion of it will be focused on the Senior Thesis. We are not changing the curriculum. We are trying to make it less stressful. We feel like it is a beneficial capstone project which gives kids a lot of confidence.
- Finals schedule - we don't have much to compare it to yet Semester 2 will have the same schedule.

**Treasurer (Amanda Shearer)**

- January financials - we are about where we were last year.
- Lunch and vending is down a little bit. Lunch - maybe due to pricing or fewer kids buying? Vending - we are not sure why it is down. The machines are being stocked regularly.
- Budgets are coming out soon for the next school year.

**Booster Club (Jenn Kindsfater for Kindsfater)**

- Barrett Jackson was very successful. Thank you! We raised money for sports, choir and speech and debate. Almost all sports participated.
- The end of the year parent celebration is coming up on May 12th. It will be a celebration of the whole year for the entire community. Please spread the word - it is for everyone. We are looking for auction items to make baskets. Please consider donating.
- The new concession cart for the gym is very versatile. It wheels and can be used for other events.
- The popcorn machine is available if anyone would like to use it - just let us know.

**VP of Communications (Aimee Avery)**

- Ultimate frisbee - the community event needs volunteers. It is a really fun event - food, music and frisbee. Friday Night Lights atmosphere.
- Directory Spot - it is a tool for parents. We are trying to serve the entire community, especially middle school and trying to build community. Directory Spot is generously sponsoring us next year. We are looking for sponsors to continue the directory. Sponsorship would include social media exposure too.

## **Additional Committee Reports**

- **Senior Fundraising (Aimee Avery & Val Guttman)**
  - Class of 2025 is done. We met our fundraising goals for the DC Trip and the Senior Surprise. We also coordinated other events - Senior BBQ, Senior Sunrise, and Pizza Days.
  - Lisamarie Palmer and Jennee McCormick are heading up senior fundraising for the Class of 2026. They will be raising funds for the DC trip and Disney.
- **HS Socials (Poonam Kshatriya & Jennee McCormick)**
  - Prom - the theme has been chosen and they will announce it soon. We are looking for volunteers to join our Prom Committee. We need more hands as Prom since it is more involved with lots of detail.
  - Budgeting (Amanda Shearer) - the dances are school sponsored events. The PSO allocates money for decor. Whatever money is made for homecoming and winter formal goes towards the Prom.

## **Questions/Discussions**

### **Finals Schedule**

- No filler questions. We felt it went really well for our family.
- Stress level was out of control. The kids were fried. Whether performance is better or not, kids had a hard time mentally so school needs to look at the mental wellbeing of kids. Mrs. LZ - We knew it would be a tough transition. We are hopeful that kids would take the test and see that the tests weren't that bad. Feedback was yes kids were stressed but then realized it was ok.
- What did the data say? In general kids don't do well on final exams as in the overall class. Mr. C - It is the first time doing it. It is going to be tricky on how to shorten tests. After the second semester we will have a better idea of how it will go.
- What is the point of changing the schedule? Mr. C - First and foremost developmentally it is inappropriate to have kids sit for an hour and 45 min test. Teachers were adding to the test to fill time so the test became too long. We are shortening tests and material so the students have to worry about less material. We are looking at changing the percentages. The final assessment shouldn't dictate the grade.
- Can we work in a break between tests? They have a 7 minute passing period. Mr C - We discussed giving time before, middle etc. Students had time to grab a snack and go into the next test. We saw overwhelming success the first semester so are looking at small tweaks.
- We appreciate the test being shortened but the stress and anxiety is coming from having to study for 3 tests the night before. Mr. C - In order to count as an instructional day, the day has to have a set number of minutes of instructional time. It is very specific and the school has to be in compliance.
- We are always going to have kids that are stressed and those who are not. Mrs. LZ - Please know we stressed to the teachers - we don't want the kids staying up all night

studying. If the kids are being diligent throughout the semester, they should be able to access the information easily.

- Some kids were learning new material the week of finals. Mrs. LZ - They shouldn't have been. Study guides should have been handed out the week prior. It is a work in progress. We are going to do it again and admin is doing as much as we can. We appreciate your patience and we do want feedback.

### **Humane Letters**

- HL teachers are making questions very specific and giving lengthy quizzes.
- Students are leaving the school because HL has no consistency across teachers in the grade. Mrs. LZ - Please tell admin because otherwise they don't know. I will meet afterward with Junior parents due to time.
- Note - there was an additional discussion on this topic after the meeting.

### **Lunch**

- Could we expand the kitchen? It would allow lunches to be served faster. Mr. C - GH facilities has a new director, so we are open to discussing it and having those kinds of conversations. Smaller projects have taken a long time with permits, etc.
- Some GH schools use caterers and offer lunch at a lower price.

### **Rhetoric**

- Are they opening more Rhetoric sections? Mrs. LZ - Yes, we are moving teachers around and offering 4 sections so if kids want the course they can get into it. Take the course that is best for you. Don't pick the class because of the teacher.

### **Directory Spot**

- People have to opt in to the directory and the biggest issue is that people aren't utilizing it.
- We have talked about opting out instead, but we are not allowed to.

### **Thesis**

- Junior students are spiraling and so stressed about the thesis.
- The Juniors watching thesis presentations gives the kids confidence going into senior year.

Next meeting is a board meeting on Friday, March 7th at 8:00am.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15am