

Glenelg High School PTSA
Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2021

Call to Order: The Executive Board meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM on October 12, 2021 by Jen Mertes via Zoom.

Attendees: Jen Mertes, Amy Gonce, Dawn Lipshultz, Shawn Hasting-Hauf, Gail Calhoun, Jane Carstea, Sarala Katta, Bose Abu, Dawn Madsen, Ellen Sowry, Suzanne Cho, Sherri Whitsett, Tania DuBeau

Principal's Report

- A Twitter incident occurred on October 11 regarding a photo of students celebrating Spirit Week on “America Day.” A user posted the photo with a comment that it was insensitive to wear that gear on Indigenous People’s Day. No policies were violated regarding the photo. However, the photo was removed and an apology was posted with an explanation that it was an oversight, with input from the superintendent’s office. Students will be addressed with a message regarding social media and lessons learned from the experience.
- PSATs will be administered on Wednesday, October 13 for underclassmen. Seniors will be out of school.
- This week is homecoming week with spirit days each day, though no school on Friday. A pep rally is scheduled for Thursday afternoon. The homecoming parade will take place on Friday at 5:30 p.m. and football game is at 7:00 p.m. against River Hill High School.

President's Report

- Homecoming update: The Sign Up Genius is finalized for dance volunteers and will be sent out. SGA asked for 140 pizzas, snacks and bottled water which the PTSA will fund.
- Donations by the PTSA are included under Support & Activities in the budget but do not have a line item so they require a vote. We would like to donate \$130 to Homewood, easels for the Art department, money to the Culinary program, and possibly curtains for the Theater department. All donations were approved other than curtains as more information is needed regarding type and cost.

Treasurer's Report

- Amy reviewed the current budget and it showed a net increase of \$5,200.
- Membership currently reflects a small amount but \$8,000 was recently deposited from Boosters. Fees are still due to the state PTSA.
- A PayPal charge is paid each month due to a link on our website. They challenged our non-profit status and Amy addressed it but there is no new information.
- There are undeposited checks from 2020 that are in question. Many were for student scholarships, mostly in \$30-\$50 amounts. It was decided that there will be no attempt to contact the people nor rewrite the checks.

Question regarding a line item for the class of 2020 celebration. Suzanne explained that the After Prom Party contains that information and the money was spent on a party that occurred virtually.

PTACH Delegate Report

- The Maryland state delegation was in attendance and spoke on upcoming legislation.
- Courtney Watson is proposing pieces of legislation regarding IEPs and burden of proof. Students' burden of proof will be transferred to the school system when there is a disagreement regarding IEP.
- Improved technology on data and analytics regarding school redistricting was discussed. Local universities will be used to provide better data and analytics to allow for more data-based decision making on redistricting. A public hearing will be held on November 2, 2021.
- Board of Education policy 820 addressed grading in middle and high schools.
- Outdoor space and eating as the weather gets colder was discussed.
- Vaccine requirement for in-person PTSA events was addressed and people are to refer to the most recent information about visitors that was published in October.
- A motion was passed to look at school capacity being 100% or less as opposed to over 100%. There will be a pilot program for analytical support.

Hospitality

- Dawn Madsen had a question regarding the need for conference dinner and what form they would take. Mrs. Hastings-Hauf reported that conferences will be virtual so no need to supply dinner for teachers. In lieu of that, possibly small snacks will be provided in teachers' mailboxes such as energy bars and coffee packets.
- A cookie exchange is traditionally done for teachers at holiday time but current guidelines do not allow for it. Something else will be provided for teachers such as scarves and/or hats.

Boosters

- Gail reported that no masks will be required while playing indoor sports.
- Basketball games will be held at 5:15 pm and 6:35 pm this winter.
- It was decided that the usual Valentine's Day lollipop gifts will happen. Each student and teacher will receive a lollipop on that day. Gail is looking into pricing.

Other business

The purchase of 24 chairs for PTSA volunteers and chairpeople last year was questioned by the current board and a list of those receiving the chairs was requested. Bose explained that they were within the approved award amount in the state guidelines. Historically Glenelg has given gifts to PTSA volunteers. The purchase was discussed, voted on and approved last year. Bose agreed to provide a list of recipients and chairs will be distributed from the school.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 PM.