

PTSO General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 7, 2015

2:00 PM

Attendees: Stephanie Marston, Anndi Kawamura, Kate Lyster, Kris Hart, Dolly Anderson, Erin Getting, Stephanie Johnstun, Lynn Lang

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Meeting Called to order at 2:00 pm

2. Approve Minutes of September Meeting
 - a. Kate Lyster entertains a motion to approve the September minutes
 - b. Dolly Anderson seconds the motion
 - c. Voice Vote is unanimous

3. Open Committee Chairperson Positions
 - a. Variety Show—need co-chairs
 - i. Overview of Variety Show, email highlandlakesptso@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering for this event.
 - b. Family Nights
 - i. Overview of Family Night planning, email highlandlakesptso@gmail.com if you are interested in providing ideas or setting up events.
 - c. Concessions
 - i. Concessions has been very successful this year, but it needs helpers several times during the week. Please email highlandlakesptso@gmail.com if you are interested in working a concessions shift.

4. Upcoming Events
 - a. Character Cart—October 21
 - i. Overview of Character Cart and how to volunteer
 - b. Book Fair—week of October 19-23

- i. Overview of Book Fair and volunteer needs sign up at <http://www.highlandlakesptso.com/volunteer-spot.html>
 - c. Staff Dinner—October 22
 - i. Overview of Staff Dinner and what to bring, how, when. Sign up at <http://www.highlandlakesptso.com/volunteer-spot.html>
 - d. Family Dance Night—October 29
 - i. PE Department hosting the dance, PTSO will be selling concessions. Note Middle School Fall dance occurs the following day.
- 5. Bearathon Meeting
 - a. Board will be meeting every Thursday until the Bearathon
 - b. Next group meeting to be announced
 - c. Group discussed shirts for Middle School color run and agreed that it would be ok to ask the students to wear their own white shirt.
- 6. Guest Speaker—Jim Migliorino, Deputy Superintendent, Fiscal and Business Services
 - a. Thank you Jim for your time in educating us on the details and importance of the upcoming M&O Override Election.
 - b. Jim presented to us “Educating Children and Preparing Future Leaders Since 1934” which can be found here:
http://dvusd.schoolwires.net/cms/lib011/AZ01901092/Centricity/Domain/56/MandO_Override_Presentation_Nov2015.pdf
 - c. Key points we took away from the meeting:
 - i. The parent and student part of the PTSO has no restrictions on advocating for people to vote a certain way. Please educate yourself on what’s at stake and share this with your circle!
 - ii. What are we voting for? Yes or No to renew the override that’s *been in place since 1991* and increase it from 10% to 15%.
 - iii. How is this different than the Bond Election? The Bond election money is used for tangible items and pays for only the items outlined in the text. Items such as the building of a new school, new AC units, new electronic marquee, school buses

and technology. An Override is used for operating expenses which include people, utilities and capital improvements.

- iv. How does an Override work? An override lasts for seven years and on the 5th year gets decreased by 1/3 until the seven-year mark. The voters can reauthorize the override at the five-year mark (that's this election) to avoid the 1/3 decrease. School districts get a budget from the State based on a formula of # of student's x base amount per student. An Override allows the district to budget an additional percentage above that basic funding. 2015-16 State basic funding formula = \$162,349,987 and the 10% override Funds an additional \$16,234,998. *Note that DVUSD has had an override in place since 1991.*
- v. Why is this needed? **Please see slides 9-13 of the presentation for specific details on why this is needed.** A committee of parents, community members, teachers, staff and administrations unanimously recommended calling for a renewal and increase of the M&I Override. This was based on factors such as:
- DVUSD is far behind it's peer districts, state and national for spending per pupil.
 - Recent funding reductions of 70.5 million
 - Retention of quality staff, we were only able to retain 85% of teachers from the 2015-16 school year. They are leaving to other districts, or worse, leaving the profession all together.
 - Quality Programs: maintaining class size, gifted education, language immersion, arts, band chorus, PE, full day kindergarten, and athletics.
- vi. How will the override be used: The first 6 items in this list are what the current override is paying for. The last 2 is what the 5% increase will go towards. If it does not pass, the last 2 will not happen and the first 6 will be decreased by 1/3.



How will the override be used?

Existing M&O Salaries	\$ 7,900,000
Maintaining Class Size at Grades K-6	\$ 2,800,000
Maintaining Class Size at Grades 7-12	\$ 3,100,000
Continuing Support for Extracurricular Activities	\$ 500,000
Continuing Support Services Staff	\$ 500,000
Continuing Support for School and Department Needs	\$ 775,000
Funding to Attract and Retain Staff	\$ 4,200,000
Specialized Programs for Students Including Co-Curricular, Extra-Curricular and Full-Day Kindergarten	\$ 4,975,000
Total	\$ 24,750,000

- vii. How much will this cost the taxpayer? \$5.67 more a month on your property taxes.
- viii. What's the bottom line? This is a crossroads decision for the DVUSD. If it's not renewed, the current budget for the 2016-17 school year (the money comes in July) will be decreased by \$5,500,000. If it's passed, the current budget will be increased by \$8,250,000.
- ix. What about other proposals to increase funding for education?
We talked about the Inflationary Lawsuit and Governor's State Land Proposal. While the district would welcome funds from those two proposals, they have been held up in court and the legislature for years and this is a need now.
- x. We discussed what happens if this doesn't pass which lead us to look at last year when Dysart District's Override did not pass. They ended up having to lay off 143 teachers, increased class sizes, they had fewer band and music classes, and they had to return to ½ day kindergarten.
- xi. Important Dates:
October 8th: Early Voting Starts
October 23rd: Last Day to request an early ballot (mail ballot)
November 3rd: Election Day
If you are on the permanent early voting list, you will get your ballot in the mail very soon. If you want to vote by mail, visit

this link

<https://recorder.maricopa.gov/earlyvotingballot/earlyvotingballotrequest.aspx>

to request a ballot by the 23rd of October. While you are there, put yourself on the early ballot list (PEVL)!!

<http://recorder.maricopa.gov/earlyvotingballot/permanentevlistinfo.aspx>

Poling places on election day can be found at

<http://recorder.maricopa.gov/pollingplace/>

7. Adjourn

- a. Agreement to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 pm