

**PTO General Meeting
August 22, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Introductions of Executive Board by Kea Carota, PTO president

Speaker from Yes for PV Students: Julie Bacon, volunteer

- Maintenance & Operations Override
- This is different from the 2015 Bond Initiative
- M&O Override is for daily operating budget items (86% goes to teacher salaries and benefits)
- This will pay for current programming (FLITE), STEM high school (CREST), IB, teacher compensation, Fine Arts, technology, art, drama, foreign language, music
- We currently have an M&N override of 13.24%; we can go up to 15% (\$1.76 million). This is enough to give all employees a 2% raise. An additional \$1.50/month for average taxpayer.
- Funding is way behind where it was before the recession.
- Campaign will soon have yard signs and magnets for distribution.
- Every registered voter will be mailed a ballot (mail-only ballot). Must be turned in by Nov. 7
- Campaign is looking for donations and volunteers.
- Sign up for campaign emails to find out how to get yard signs, magnets, etc. or sign up on the website for items: YesforPVStudents.com

Volunteer Opportunities: Ruby Cropper

- Introduced sign-up sheets for major events (Trekks, Hoedown, Carnival, etc.)
- Explained Volunteer Form
- Kea: we are interested in forming a Garden Committee; no experience needed. Volunteers needed during lunch hours.

Communications: Erin Rawitch

- Best way to stay in-the-know: sign up for PTO emails (sent 1x/week): sandpiperpto.org
- Facebook page: Sandpiper PTO
- PTOSandpiper@gmail.com
- Information in these places comes directly from Ms. Cameron
- Fundraising tab on website: lists all the ways to send money to Sandpiper (Fry's, box tops, Amazon Smile, etc.)

Preview of Direct Giving: Jolene Kutty

- Goal of the week is to raise money for the entire year
- PTO funds everything that's cool
- Going to raise money for a giant shade structure for back of school (for use by PE, outdoor lunch).
- We pay for Accelerated Reading (AR), teacher supplies, books in the library, funding the garden, a Spanish book library.
- Poster contest for 4-6th graders.
- Kids will dress in spirit wear each day of the week:
 - Monday: Crazy Sock Day

- Tuesday: PJ Day
 - Wednesday: Sports Day
 - Thursday: Spirit/Hat Day
 - Friday: 50s Sock Hop Day
- Employer match qualifies
 - We will also take company/business sponsorships
 - Donations are 100% tax deductible

UPC Report: Brandellin Nickles

- UPC has monthly meetings at the District Office, mornings.
- UPC offers workshops and seminars on different topics – any parent is welcome to attend.
- A good opportunity for face time with the Superintendent.
- Need an alternate UPC representative in case Brandellin can't attend monthly meetings.

Teachers' Report: Ms. Brown

- Teachers want to thank PTO and parents for Back to School Lunch.
- Ms. Adam thanked the PTO for their role in keeping her here.

Principal's Report: Ms. Cameron

- PTO paid for two teachers to go to Columbia Writing Project over the summer; they came back and trained the rest of the staff. Thank you for those who provided the lunches for these teachers during these trainings.
- Thank you to Lisa Cross, Reading Specialist, for helping to get all students evaluated for reading levels in the first two weeks of school.
- All teachers went through a training last year for best strategies to use with gifted children; new teachers will get this training in September.
- The state gave us permission for students who have a first language other than English to be in our immersion program with a 3-hour English day (instead of 4-hour state requirement). This will result in more Spanish language models in the classrooms for students in FLITE.
- Drop-Off and Pick-Up:
 - Site council looked at solutions last year.
 - After school, it is taking 11 minutes for all students to be picked up (Ms. Cameron is timing it). Kindergarten: 8 minutes.
 - Having two pick up locations (for different grades), has helped.
 - We had police here, as do other schools. Officer said concerned citizens called about safety of students. Their purpose was to assess the situation and provide suggestions to Ms. Cameron.
 - 58% of our student body is open enrollment (not able to ride bus). Kids who live within one mile of school do not get bus service either.
 - District head of Business Operations said it's a possibility for us to get a pull around driveway for drop offs/pick-ups. It might mean losing some playground space. They are going to come out to take a look to see where we might be able to do this.

Questions

- To ride bikes, kids have to be in at least 3rd grade and must wear a helmet.
- Another school had a "Bike Rodeo" bike safety event. We will look into this.

- Will our Spanish Library be incorporated into AR?
 - AR says they are working towards getting more Spanish books/tests as part of the program.
 - Scholastic Book Fair will have more Spanish language books.
 - Library will accept donated books.

Meeting adjourned: 7:06 p.m.