

Phoenix PTSA
September 6, 2023
Meeting Minutes

I. Meeting was called to order by Gretchen Dinneen at 7:37pm.

II. Approval of officers

- President: Gretchen Dinneen
- Vice President/Secretary: Leslie Jankowski (new)
- Treasurer: Lela Walker
- PTAC Representative: Jen Kehlmeier

Jen motioned to approve the slate of new officers and Lela seconded. None were opposed and the motion carried.

III. PTSA Coordinators:

- Dine to Donate Coordinator: Dodd Alley and Katie Blickhan
- Direct Drive Coordinator: Andy Vogel
- Event Coordinator: Marissa Johnson and Jessica Goins
- Teacher Appreciation Coordinator: Chandra Demick

IV. Principal's Update (Flynn)

- Reminder about Coffee Talk on Tuesday mornings, usually the day before PTSA meetings. These offer a chance to ask questions and talk about ways to improve Phoenix.
- Camp Kern for seventh graders is coming up on October 4-6. Payment deadline is approaching. The camp is a beneficial time to craft the culture for the school, which is hard to do during the school day.
- Jen asked: Is there a scholarship for families in need? Phoenix has built in the ability to cover a certain number of students.
- Portrait of a Learner project: Worthington has teamed up with Battelle for Kids. It asks, what do we want our students to learn and become and be able to do at the end of their time in Worthington? The aim is to come together as a community and talk through a vision for the schools and students. Everyone is welcome to be a part of it. There is a video on the webpage. Interested parents and students can still sign up on the Phoenix website for the 4 evening meetings. Kids can also be a part and a voice in the room. The meetings will be table discussions and brainstorming.
- Association of Mid-Level Educators (AMLE) is an organization that does school assessment, looking at what we do, how we do it, and how we can do better. From there, it guides professional development and staff. Phoenix has been encouraged to apply to be recognized as a School of Distinction. Flynn called for volunteers for the application writing team. He envisions 2-3 meetings. Involvement could be writing or talking about it, and reading through the

application and giving feedback. Families are encouraged to take part so he can get a 365 degree picture of Phoenix.

- Curriculum Liaison Committee: one parent from each school meets 3-4 times a year. This is a chance to hear about all the cool things happening across the district and bring back that perspective. The representative will be the voice of Phoenix and then be the voice of the district. Flynn is looking for a representative for Phoenix.

V. Treasurer's Report (Walker)

- **May 2023**
 - Beginning \$14,191.83
 - Ending \$8,965.32
 - Impact project expenses, 8th grade celebration expenses, Phoenix Scholarship, incoming 7th grade celebration breakfast, 8th grade lunch at El Vaquero and last day of school pizza party
- **June 2023**
 - Beginning \$8,965.32
 - Ending \$6,139.24
 - Refund for ice cream bar and teacher appreciation expenses, and Box Tops and Kroger donations
- **July 2023**
 - Beginning \$6,139.24
 - Ending \$6,044.90
 - PTSA membership credits and \$140 check payment to Worthington Schools transportation
- **August 2023**
 - Beginning \$6,139.24
 - Ending \$6,526.36
 - PTSA membership credits
- Proposed FY2023 budget presented.
- Although it looks like we're budgeting over, not everything is paid out and we typically come under budget. For example, not every Impact Project is funded.
- Sarah Hasanain asked about carrying over unused Impact Project funds from the year before. Lela clarified everything starts over and they would need to reapply for funds.
- What are the top line budget expense items?
 - \$5,000 for eighth grade impact projects based on kids' proposals for projects that impact the community. Some examples are microwaves,

keyboards, cleaning up the Perry Park creek, making homemade blankets with fourth graders and giving to Nationwide Children's. Impact projects are done through Connections.

- \$2,000 teacher appreciation
- Transportation funds
- All money raised is spent on the kids such as cookouts, canteens, board games, and Playstations.
- PTAs got together and gave food to Transportation - last year was PTAC, but will be PTSA this year. These funds will come from the Staff Appreciation fund.

Chandra moved to accept the proposed FY2023 budget. Leslie seconded. None opposed. Motion carried.

VI. Author Visit (Hasanain)

- Proposed an author visit with Mindy McGinnis, an Ohio-based YA author who wrote *Not a Drop to Drink*. This would be a collaboration between ELA and Science. The book is set in post-apocalyptic Ohio. Hasanain proposes either a traditional Q & A or an immersion day combining seventh and eighth graders with a writing workshop, Q & A, and a professional development staff talk. The cost difference is \$2540 for author visit and \$3540 for the immersion day.
- Gretchen suggested we tentatively approve the immersion day if we hit our \$10,000 Direct Drive goal.

Lela motioned to approve the tentative immersion proposal. Dodd seconded. None opposed. Motion carried.

VII. Dine to Donate (Alley)

- Dine to Donate nights are once a month and percentages of money given vary depending on the restaurant.
- Upcoming dates are: Swensons 9/18 5-8pm, 15%; Noodles 10/9 4-8pm, 25%; hoping for Chipotle in December, 32%.
- Instead of Dine to Donate, there is Donate to Dine in November which is a canned food drive competition.
- Dodd encourages suggestions for restaurants.

VIII. Membership Update (Dinneen)

- Currently there are 56 members.
- Links to join PTSA will continue to be added to school emails.

IX. Direct Drive (Vogel)

- Direct Drive starts on 9/13 and ends on 9/27. Our goal this year is \$100 per student.
- Students will have their own personalized link on 99 Pledges to collect money electronically.

- There are contests and incentives for students including a gift card drawing open for all participants. There are prizes for top earners. Advisory winners get food such as a pizza, donuts, etc. We have a \$300 incentive budget.
- We had 35% participation last year.
- Students learn about the drive during Student Forum and will learn how to send proper emails.
- To help support families who use checks, Gretchen proposes we approve the purchase of a lockbox to be installed in the school office.

Jen motioned to approve up to \$50 to purchase a lockbox for the school office. Lela seconded. None opposed. Motion carried.

X. Approval of May 2023 minutes

Chandra moved to approve the May 3, 2023 minutes and Jen seconded. None opposed. Motion carried.

XI. Next meeting 10/4 on Zoom

- We will check bylaws, but Dr. Flynn proposes every other meeting on Zoom.
- Dr Flynn will create the Zoom link.

XII. Other Business

- Special Education - Key Communicators
 - Every school has a rep that meets at headquarters quarterly.
 - There is also a Facebook group.
 - She is happy to make connections with other parents.

XIII. Adjournment

Jen motioned to adjourn. Leslie seconded.