



General PTO Meeting Minutes September 20, 2016

PTO President called the meeting to order (over 150 people in attendance)

Introduction of 2016-2017 PTO Executive Members

- President - Amanda McCauley
- President Elect - Kevin DeGroot
- Treasurer - Lori Arndt
- Secretary - Janey Ledyard
- VP Communications - Co - Positions
 - Eblast - Lisa Binsfeld
 - Website/Social Media - Julie & Robert Schiller
- VP Fundraising - Laura Wilber
- VP Membership - Lezlie Richardson & Tracey Wasson
- VP Volunteers - Annie Rea

Thank you to Jenn Murphy and Tiffany Spiekerman for providing the hospitality for the meeting

Review of Minutes from last meeting

Motion to approve minutes made by Lori Arndt. 2nd by Kevin DeGroot; approved unanimously

Principal's Report - Nathan Slater

- Thank you for coming and all that you as parents do for Arcadia
- They received great feedback about the Open House.
- Currently enrollment is at 1742 which is down 15 from the first day of school 1757.
- They have put a lot of effort and energy into staffing this year.
- The decision was made to staff PE higher around 33/class so that they could focus on bringing English and Math class numbers down.
- The focus is going to be on kids and learning to enhance the student's engagement
- SIP is focused on students
- Thank you for coming we are working to empower students to be in charge of their education and we couldn't do it without the PTO

Treasurer's Report - Lori Arndt

- Lori Arndt presented the 2016-2017 PTO budget for approval.
- The budget is current through 9/13/16
- Motion to approve the budget made by Annie Rea. 2nd by Kevin DeGroote; approved unanimously.

Yes to Children - Karen Treon

- Time was purchased from the District for Yes to Children to speak at the PTO meeting
- The election will be November 8th
- The goal is to build momentum in the community
- Yes to Children has magnets, a Facebook page, signs and planned neighborhood walks. They need our support and contributions can be made at yestochildren.org
- Arcadia has been a great supported, especially the PTO
- September 29th at 6:00 Dr. Birdwell and District personnel will be at Arcadia High School to share information about the bond and override.

Questions for Mr. Slater from the audience

- 1) What is the process for parents to talk to the teachers if their child is having issues
 - a) The Arcadia staff is willing to help parents and students. They should be contacted directly. The staff is working on building relationships between students and parents.
 - b) If talking to the teacher doesn't provide a solution the following order should be worked through: Department chair, assistant principal, principal.
 - c) As a staff they, have talked about how to work together and empower the students.
- 2) What is a reasonable response to get from a teacher?
 - a) Teachers should respond within 24 hours.
 - b) Copy Mr. Slater on follow up correspondence if there is still no response.
- 3) A parent said thank you for addressing Arcadia's crosswalk on Indian School. It has been a two year process to get it moved from the west side to the east side at the entrance but parents and staff have already noticed a positive change

Officer's/Subcommittee Reports

Treasurer – Lori Arndt: 2016-17 Special Funding summary (To date)

- AP, Avid, Webinar and advanced subject training for teachers. (approx. 10-15 teachers ea. year)
- 35 copies of book titled, "Aura" for Spanish IV AP class
- Tony Vincent workshop (On-site & customized to Arcadia's needs) for Teachers & Staff.
- Marzano Books for Teachers (Professional development)
- PTO General meeting speaker, Marybeth Kravets
- Commercial ice maker to be used in the athletic department

- Book carts for Bookstore
- Miscellaneous new weights and equipment for Arcadia weight room

Communications – Lisa Binsfeld

- Eblast- Lisa Binsfeld
 - For eBlast submissions, please send to communications@arcadiapto.org
 - Deadline is Sat. 5pm, for publication the following Wednesday
 - If you aren't getting the eBlast, sign up on our PTO website, www.arcadiapto.org
 - Email communications@arcadiapto.org with any issues

Fundraising – Laura Wilber:

- PTO members: please visit our website and click "Fundraising" to learn how you can generate \$ for our school when you shop, it's quick and easy! Local business leaders: we appreciate you! Learn how you can get your business featured in our weekly eBlast distributed to more than 1,400 engaged subscribers. Click the "Events" tab to learn about getting featured at our largest fundraiser of the year, The Arcadia Auction, coming March 2017.

Membership – Lezlie Richardson/ Tracey Wasson:

- It's not too late to join! We would love to have you. Membership also allows you to support many programs at AHS & get the weekly eblast so you can stay connected with what's happening at Arcadia. To learn more, visit the PTO website or talk w/ Lezlie or Tracey. Also, please remember Booster officers must be members of the PTO (to stay compliant w/ our insurance and our bylaws).

Volunteers – Annie Rea:

- THANK YOU to all of our amazing volunteers who helped make registration run so smoothly!!! Our hard-working, dedicated PTO parents (and grandparent) volunteers worked 137 shifts for a total of 580 hours. What a great way to start the year!
- We currently have 93 volunteers signed up and working on campus. Please help us raise that number by signing up tonight if you have not already – forms are by the door or contact Annie Rea at rarea1@cox.net.

- Remember – No one can do everything, but if everyone does something we can make an enormous impact.

Homecoming Parade: Amy Owens

- **6th Annual Parade: Sep. 30 4:00pm** Still needed: 5 volunteers to help the day of the parade. Hopefully each of these volunteers can bring a large ice chest and two bags of ice. Email or contact Amy Owens if you can help soldbyowens@gmail.com or 602-723-0500. Parade starts at Shemer Art Center and ends at Hopi. To see parade route or get more information, visit "events" on the PTO Website or contact this year's parade organizer: Caitlin Miller caitlinmiller@susd.org. All clubs/teams/groups from Arcadia, Ingleside, ANLC, Hopi & Tavan invited.

Project Grad – Michelle Himmelberg

- If you are interested in being involved as a Parent Volunteer or just want to help plan this year's Project Grad Celebrations, please come to the first Project Grad Planning Meeting on Mon., Oct. 3rd at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Michelle Himmelberg.
- ALSO: Project Grad will be holding a garage sale this Fall. Please start collecting your items. All proceeds will go to Project Grad 2017. Keep an eye out in eblast for collection days and times. Any ?'s please contact Michelle Himmelberg at mhimmelberg11@msn.com

Dads Club – Tom Louer, Chuck Nixon, Scott Spier:

- Meeting tomorrow night, 5:30, Arcadia Tavern. ALL dads invited! If you have Dads Club questions, contact Chuck Chuck.Nixon@cbre.com

SPC (Scottsdale Parent Council) -- Michelle Woodard:

- Dr. Anna McCauley gave an Assessment Result Update regarding AzMERIT and Historical Trend Data based on state assessments for the district from 2005 – 2016. A summary of her method, data and trends can be found on susd.org under Governing Board Meeting Documents for the 8/23/16 Regular Board Meeting. These are in the document 2016 AzMERIT and Historical Data.
- Arcadia High's graph data shows a 3 year downward trend from 2013-2016 in ELA (with a slight uptick in 2014) and an upward trend in Math from 2013 to 2015.
- District admin, will be working with site Principals on their curriculum, instruction and assessment practices using all of this data.
- Dr. Mitch Von Gnechten gave a presentation on Instructional Minutes Implementation. An external and internal audit discovered our district was not meeting 720 hours of state mandated instruction and we were at risk of losing funding from the state. The decision was made by the district that all High School Srs. must take 5 classes instead of adding 25 minutes to the day for all students. There are limited waivers offered for Srs. and the district is working

with the state to get approval for a work internship type of class that would count as a 5th class.

- Dr. Denise Birdwell, SUSD Superintendent, gave a What's New in SUSD and Q&A session. Highlights included her assessment that we are a "program heavy, intervention heavy but instructionally weak" district. She discussed the struggle the district is having with getting RNs for school sites – RNs get paid twice the amt the district offers to work in hospitals.
- Open Enrollment is moving back to each school site by 9/30/16 and will be controlled by site leadership.
- SUSD does not offer ACT to all high school students and it is her goal to change that.
- Next scheduled SPC General Meeting is on Wed., 10/5/16, 9:30 at Mohave District Annex – all are welcome to attend.

Guest Speaker: Marybeth Kravets & Brad Baerstch (Mr. Baerstch had a last minute conflict and was unable to attend. Marybeth presented.)

Adjourn- next meeting January 31, 2017: Special Guest Speaker- Not My Kid