

MINUTES

Coyote Hills PTSO

Date | time 9/18/2017 6:30 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Vickie Zalewski

In Attendance

Terry Balliet, Julie Abbott, Vickie Zalewski, Nicole Friedl, Jill Patton, Amy Wolff, Stacia Martin, Sophie Wolff, Jason Weager, Amanda Kendall, Dianna Reagan, Shauna Hatfield.

Board

The Board and administration introduced themselves.

Principal Update

Guest Speaker

- Jill Melaragni, from Frontier Elementary, came to speak on behalf of Support Peoria Students, in favor of the upcoming PUSD Bond vote. She went over the numerous district enhancements such as buses, restrooms, office equipment, etc included in the bond, as well as the addition of one elementary and one high school to support the exponential growth in northern Peoria. Jill passed out a 2018 Bond FAQ and gave sources for additional information including events and social media: Facebook – Support Peoria Students, Instagram – Support Peoria Students, Twitter – SPS2018BOND.

Mr. Balliet's Update

- Piggy backing off our guest speaker's topic, Mr. Balliet explained that, over the next 6 weekends, folks are encouraged to go out and talk to others in the community about the bond, especially those who previously voted for a bond.
- Parts of the bond will address safety.
- Mr. Balliet addressed the locking of the gate adjacent to the Deer Village Park. Despite the inconvenience to parents and students, it will remain locked for safety. There is a history of activity at the park that the school does not want to expose students to.
- Mr. Balliet and Mrs. Abbott attended an event and heard information from FEMA regarding safety. We usually employ a lock down/shelter in place – teachers can continue to educate in that setting. The district will introduce a new lock down procedure that moves students to another area of the building for security purposes. They will practice two times per year. Balliet asked for feedback about how to discuss this with Coyote Hills parents, ie a forum, just go ahead with the practice, etc. Feedback – yes, it helps create a dialogue at home. Folks also said it was good to hear from the school, as details are hard to get out of some children.

Treasurer Update:

- Jill provided the Treasurer Report for review.

Old Business/Funds requested:

- None at this time.

New Business/Request for Funds

- Coupon Books: Nicole provided an update on the coupon book project. The deadline to submit orders has just passed. We asked Mr. Balliet to do a call or email home to help remind parents to return any additional orders or remaining sample books by September 28th. After that date, we will send home a letter for any student who has not returned anything.
- McTeacher Night (09/25/18): Vickie noted that teachers are excited for the event and happy to help out. This is a great community event for families and staff.
- Spirit Wear: Nicole shared that sales are in full swing and orders are due by September 25th. Apparel will go home with students in mid-October.

Announcements/Reminders

- PUPC update from Dianna Reagan:
 - a. The PUPC featured a speaker regarding the state of education funding in Arizona, budgets, etc. 43% of the budget goes to K-12 students. The budget pot is too small for the number of residents in the state.
 - b. PUSD Superintendent Linda Palles Thompson spoke regarding the PUSD Bond and explained how the bond funding would be spread throughout the entire district.
 - c. PUSD will hold a Community Engagement Forum at Centennial to share the direction of the district and elicit feedback from the community regarding needs and priorities.
 - d. There are planned canvases to support the bond. The ground game is well planned. Support Peoria Schools has done a lot of outreach. A planned golf event related to SPS went really well.
 - e. There was discussion regarding what PTSOs can take positions on. They can support the bond but not individual candidates.
 - f. There will be a PUSD field trip touring several innovative campuses. It will take off from Liberty High School. See the district website for more information.
 - g. This meeting was informational and well attended. The next PUPC meeting will be the PUSD Governing Board Candidate Forum at the district administrative office on October 2nd.
- Parent, Amanda Kendall, brought up discussion about 5th grade's use of the playground. She noted that they're still about 10 years old but they're assigned to the south field of the playground where there is no playground equipment. There is only one recess per day, but the kids have energy to release. Mr. Balliet noted that there is six square and the gaga ball pit will come back out when the weather is cooler and the kids are trained by PE staff. Fifth grade is the arbitrary age to move the kids from the north playground field to the south field based on the number of kids on the playground at a given time and per lunch schedules. Lunches are staggered so a younger grade is on the north playground while an upper grade is on the south field. Next year, the state law will require two recesses for fifth grade. PTSO board members solicited any advice for playground games they could buy or implement for the upper grades.
- Amanda Kendall also asked about student communication from the Outdoor Ed trip – no phone calls or contact with home. She also inquired about vetting of the chaperones. Mr. Balliet explained that the kids are kept very busy, so there isn't a lot of down time for the students. They're also in a remote area where cell phones don't work, so they must all use a camp landline if necessary. Chaperones have to complete a district application with background check. Other parents present at the meeting, who have attended Outdoor Ed previously, spoke highly of the trip and the program as well as the demeanor of those parents who go out of their way to attend this field trip and help with kids. There is also a great deal of camp staff supporting the event and school administration staff on site.
- Dianna Reagan pursued the discussion on activities again and inquired about the heat. Mr. Balliet explained that the heat index is monitored and communicated by the district. PE and recess can be affected by the heat, and in some cases they will encourage water, limited activity, and use of shade structures. No students have

complained this school year about their activity outside. They are also encouraged to take time to cool down and drink water after recess.

- Next Meeting is scheduled for November 7th, 2018. Information will be posted on the website and Facebook.

Motion to adjourn was made at **7:25pm** and was passed unanimously.