



Desert Shadows Middle School - PTO Meeting Agenda – 8/25/2025

19 in person — 12 online

1. Welcome - Introductions of PTO
2. Voting Items: Motion to approve minutes from May meeting. Motion Passed
25/26 Budget: Motion Passed
3. President Report (Kristina)
 - Kim Gallagher is Spirit Wear Coordinator
4. Treasurer Report (Gardenia & Amy)
 - \$29,000 in our account - \$10k in savings account to make sure we have a cushion and for security.
 - Income: Reviewed various ways we raise money - see Budget for details. New: Marquee Birthday Messages
 - Expenses: Reviewed details of where we spend money. See Budget for details. Teachers receive teacher grants. We may charge for the Spring Dance if we don't raise enough through Direct Giving.
5. Communication and Social Media Report (Kristin)
 - We have a free Canva Pro Account for nonprofits!!
 - Ashley will help with Canva
 - Working on creating Google Workspace so that everything stays in one place and builds history
6. Volunteer Report (Sarah)
 - Huge thank you to our volunteers! We have a huge volunteer list of over 100, the sign ups went out and got filled fast. The next need is the fall dance. We will be doing the PBIS pizza delivery volunteer opportunity again this year as well.
7. Events Report
 - Fall Dance - October 24th - likely will be Halloween themed. DJ, photobooth, researching food options. Some clubs want to sell food for fundraising. Encourage kids to come to the dance, they have a blast.
8. Fundraising Report
 - Decided to do 1 fundraiser this year - just Direct Giving, not Step It Up.
 - If you haven't made your donation yet please do so at sidewinderpto.com/fundraising.

- We are at \$33,340 today between Direct Giving, Family Sponsors and Business Sponsors
- New this year we have Business Sponsors - \$350 includes banner, sponsoring staff meal, booth at curriculum night, social media post. Family Sponsors - \$200 (includes name on a banner and sponsoring a staff meal)
- Trying to get 48% participation, we are ahead of the percent from last year
- Ideas on how to promote: How money is spent, flashy graphics, Zelle, Fall Dance every one bring an item (Clorox Wipes, tissue, etc)
- How people give, in kind, supplies, lounge restock, corporate matching
- Business Sponsors - 18 Business Sponsors to date. Fill the Fence Campaign. \$300, PTO pays for the banner. Ask 3 business owners to become sponsors. E-mail going out focusing on business sponsors
- In kind - Restaurants donate a meal, over \$400. We print the banner for that business. Crumbl, Texas Roadhouse have said yes.
- Passive Fundraising - DSMS brings you customers, you give us a percent back. Kona Ice is coming soon. They will swap out their syrups to meet PVUSD requirements. Jump Night this Friday at Sky Zone, Grapes & Hops, and Berry Devine. Working on 2 pop-ups and 1-2 dine and donates per month. Kendra Scott tentatively scheduled for Dec 5th. Zin Burger scheduled for that night as well.
- Marquee - Birthday announcements - <https://sidewinderpto.com/fundraising> - messages need to be submitted 7 days prior.

9. Hospitality Report (Cindy & Sarah) -

- Team of 4 working on hospitality.
- The team is meeting to plan out the year, looking for restaurants to donate meals, and great reviews from staff about stocking the lounge.

10. Teachers Report

11. Principal Report

- Fully staffed. We have one posted for LFI, but technically we are staffed.
- Thank you to volunteers for Chromebook distribution. We will no longer collect them until they leave PVUSD. So much time saved!
- PBIS - revamped last year, new Pride Posters are up. Focusing on what we want students to do rather than what not to do.
- No cell phones on campus is a big hit, students are interacting and bring good energy
- Lots of prizes given out throughout the year for positive behavior.
- We collect soft plastic in the bin in the front office. The engineering class submits them to an organization that turns the bags into a bench. If we collect 1000lbs we get a free bench.

- A/Cs are almost fully functioning. Everything building now has new A/Cs. The conference room is being worked on, parts have been ordered. Some A/Cs were really loud, and the district is working through those issues.
- 800 students, with a waitlist. We are at a pause enrolling due to scheduling for special circumstances.
- 420 8th grade - 380 7th grade
- July - City of Phoenix is tearing up Sweetwater from the park to 60th Street. After lots of communications we discovered the sewage lines were connected and the project is on pause. The project will resume, but we have asked it to be delayed until summer. New traffic patterns will be implemented. Ms. Knaeble will be communicating information as she receives it.
- The kids are delightful, kind, say hi, talk to adults. We saw huge growth in math and ELA after switching the block schedule. Test results are still pending.
- Please call the office if you need something rather than emailing Ms. Knaeble. She is trying to get to emails, but tries to be present around the school.

12. UPC Report (Laura & Kia)

- UPC has access to the Superintendent and Cabinet, we support facilities and thank district wide.
- The meeting is Wednesday morning once a month.
- To be a UPC rep you have to go to the meeting
- New Superintendent this year, very energetic, excited to be here, great first meeting.
- All meetings are open to everyone
- The September meeting will cover the student handbook at the District Office.

Additional Items to discuss

- Go to Horizon athletic games to introduce middle schoolers to the high schoolers.
- Horizon Sept 26th opening night - Almost, Maine
- Art Academy - art show, communication needs to come from the teachers to parents because students don't tell their parents.

Questions?

7:12pm

Upcoming PTO Meetings: Monday, September 29th, 5:30pm