

# Submitted for Approval

Attendees: (see sign in sheet)

total participants : 22

Call to order at 6:30 pm by Alison Kalmanson

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- Welcome & Introduction from President (PTA President)
- Principal Report (Mr. McGee) - see below

## Business Executive Session

- Confirm quorum of 5 voting members (Secretary)
- Announcements:
  - Mark your calendars for future meeting dates: Tuesday, March 12, 2024, Tuesday, May 14, 2024.
    - Please email [Grantptaboard@gmail.com](mailto:Grantptaboard@gmail.com) to make suggestions for future meetings.
  - Info about supply spreadsheet
  - Nurse's office needs some women's underpants in sizes 7,8,9 and some sample size anti-perspirant/deodorant.
- Secretary Report
  - Minutes Approval
- Treasurer report
  - Bank checking balance for the PTA: \$19,435.68.
    - PTA is not actively fundraising and relies solely on membership dollars to keep the organization solvent.
    - Alison appealed to everyone to sign up another family member to be a PTA member to increase our membership and dollars available to support teachers and classroom activities.
    - Alison also made an appeal for switching Grant HS on people's Fred Meyer Rewards program. This "passive" fundraiser brings in a nice revenue stream. Sign into your Fred Meyer account > navigate to Community Rewards > be sure to pick **Grant High School PTA**.
- Membership Report
  - Total membership: 165
    - OR PTA has a part-time secretary. We have not received membership dollars for this school year.

- New Business
  - Classroom grant applications update
  - Legislative Update (Otto Schell)
    - Otto encourages everyone to contact their local legislators to bring education funding to the forefront of the 2025 FY budget process. Currently the legislature will not be giving additional educational funding (even though many districts have threatened to strike or have struck) due to the 2-year budget cycle.
    - A local PPS teacher levy (is added in property taxes) is up for renewal most likely in May. If renewed “based on projected property tax collections, revenue generated from the levy in the year 2024-2025 is actually estimated to be \$116.9 million. This correction of the 2024-25 estimate does not impact the proposed levy rate; if renewed, the levy maintains the existing local option tax rate of \$1.99 per \$1,000 assessed value to provide funding for schools over 5 years.” (Source: <https://www.pps.net/Page/14142>)

**Special Topic: Class forecasting- see below**

**Meeting adjourned** (PTA President)

Principal McGee focused on the topic of **forecasting**.

- Counselors are currently going to the middle schools and talking about forecasting. There will be changes in offerings for incoming **freshman** SY24-25:
  - Past data has indicated better preparedness for future HS classes by providing a “Writer’s Workshop” in conjunction with the required English class. Students will have the same Writer’s Workshop and English teachers so will have continuity between A and B days.
  - US History will be moved from 11 grade to 9th grade.
  - These two changes will reduce the number of electives freshman can take to (1) one and will eliminate the current class called “Inquiry”.
    - It is recognized that students who want to participate in more than one music class or other elective will be potentially upset with this. In order to compensate, freshmen may opt out of “traditional PE” and take an elective PE courses in their sophomore or Junior year. PE credits towards graduation must be accomplished by the end of a student’s Junior year. Principal McGee is pleading the case to the District to include dance as a way of receiving the PE credit. A determination has not been made yet.
- Changes for **seniors**:
  - Seniors will have the option of AP Language to complete their senior level language arts credit. There was a question about having AP Language for juniors like at other HS in the district, and McGee said it is on the “wishlist” but not everything will be approved.
  - Every effort will be made to accommodate all students who want to take an AP class.

- **Forecasting at GHS starts this week.** Students should work with their parents/guardians to complete the process. Forecasting sheets are due back by January 19. Anyone who has questions should contact the student's counselor (and copy Principal McGee if not receiving a timely answer).
  - Forecasting results will be shared in the Spring.
    - Two factors will affect what is offered next year (and what will be dropped):
      - Student interest in a particular class (class size is a big factor with the new PAT contract).
      - Available budget. Budgets will be distributed to GHS in February.
  - Budget + new contract + changes to the course offerings will necessitate cuts in different areas in order to get students ready for what comes next.

Principal McGee turned to the topic of **attendance**. The State of Oregon has one of the lowest attendance rates in the country and GHS attendance is low in the ranking in the state.

- **Prom and Winter Formal** - In order for students to participate in these events that must have demonstrated 90% attendance. Three weeks prior to the event, those who have fallen below the 90% will be brought in to discuss a contract for how to improve their attendance.
- There were many **questions about why attendance is so low** at GHS and Principal McGee chalks it up to many factors:
  - The pandemic made it easier (necessary at the time) and with today's focus on mental health - more students are opting to stay at home.
  - There are no parental consequences in the State if students are not attending school/class.
  - Seniors only need two credits (often) to graduate and they lose interest in coming to school.
  - Students are experiencing anxiety from pressure to achieve academically and it manifests itself in illness/days at home vs in class.
- President's Day February 19, is now a school day. Teachers have the option of scheduling tests on that day.
- **Snow days.** Due to the changes in the school calendar made after the strike in November mean that any snow days will be added to the end of the school year (current last day of school is June 14, 2024).