

Grant PTA General Meeting

Date: March 12, 2024

Location: Grant High School Library

AGENDA

General Meeting - Call to order at 5:15pm (PTA President)

Attendees: (see sign in sheet)

Total Participants: 10

- 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, May 14, 2024 ●
- Secretary Report
 - Minutes Approved as Submitted
- Treasurer report
 - Bank checking balance for the PTA: \$22,250.28
- Membership Report
 - Total membership: 172
- New Business
 - Info re: PTA Board elections in May
 - Chef Hale - info re: 2025 Paris trip
 - **Bob Turner, Portland Pearl Rotary Club Youth Exchange Officer**
 - Bob talked about the benefits of their youth exchange program and encouraged families to Host a foreign high school student. Each exchange student needs 3 host families with a flexible 3-½ to 4 month commitment. Host families may be empty nesters, single parents, and those with you children. See attached flyer.
 - Classroom grant applications update
 - Legislative Update (Otto Schell)
 - 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>)

- Given the projected \$30Million in budget cuts announced by outgoing Superintendent Guadalupe Guerrero, the loss of levy revenue will be disastrous.
- Otto will ask PTA representatives for their endorsement in the voter’s pamphlet. PTA Board members are allowed to publicly endorse measures, but not candidates. For more information on how our schools are funded see [this](#) resource made by OR PTA (<https://www.oregonpta.org/advocacy/current-issues>)

Special Topic: “Screenagers Under the Influence” showing in the auditorium at 6:00pm

Meeting adjourned (PTA President) 6:10 for viewing of “Screenagers Under the Influence”

Principal McGee’s report:

- **March 20th - SAT Testing Day** - This day will look different for each class with the common denominator being *attendance will be taken and 9th and 10th graders will have early dismissal at 1:30:*
 - 9th grade - Half the class will be going on a field trip taking MAX downtown. Half the class will stay on campus and engage in academic activities.
 - 10th grade - will be in the auditorium seeing the “Screenagers Under the Influence” and engage in a Q&A with expert panel from Big Village
 - 11th grade - SAT Testing
 - 12th grade - will engage in career and college readiness activities until 3:30 pm ●
- Principal McGee supports testing as a way of validating Grant HS graduation rate of 93%. If test scores are lower than expected, that represents valuable information for the school to determine the disconnect.
- **Student Activity News:**
 - Boys Basketball made 6th in the State
 - Grease was an amazing production and cast, crew, ensemble and faculty are to be commended for the high quality of the show
 - The Gendrills go to the State competition this Weekend
 - March 16th is the 100th Year Celebration Open House & Concert from 1-4 with a

free concert at 4:00 by Tom Grant. Many student groups will be showcasing their talents while the public and alumni tour the buildings.

- News of the Bowl:

- The field is now done and being used by the public and sports teams.
- The track will be re-surfaced after Track & Field season
- The lease agreement between PPS and Portland Parks is being finalized. ○ There is a plan for lights and seating, but no details were shared at this time. ● Forecasting - This year is especially difficult with budget cuts, class size caps, curriculum changes* and large enrollment. Letters have gone out to rising seniors and their families to determine what classes they truly intend on taking and which will be dropped (rising seniors forecasted for 8 classes but generally only need 6 for graduation). These preferences are due by March 20th at which time the school can finalize class sizes and staff needs.

- Curriculum changes are as follows:

- 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 11th grade to 9th grade (current 9th graders will take US History in 11th 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 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.

- Boys Volleyball Update - A coach has been found and it looks like a go! ● Cell phone policy - The new cell phone policy has been very effective at Grant. Next year they will add earbuds and headphones to the policy. It seems that some students are putting their phones in the caddies but are still connected via earbuds.