

## Grant PTA General Meeting

Date: Sept 10, 2024

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Grant High School Library

# FOR APPROVAL

**General Meeting** - Call to order at 6:30pm (PTA President...Sandy McDaniel)

- Welcome & Introduction from PTA President
  - Table introductions and question collection
  - Introduction of Board
  - Agenda notes
    - Leadership
    - McGee
    - Business
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- Leadership students
  - Technical difficulties with the app Spanish class is using?
    - Come to room 104 with Mr. Perez before school or during flex
      - Students allowed in at 8:00
  - How do you use Flex time?
    - McGee on Flex...opportunities to retest or get help on Wednesdays and Thursdays or Thursdays and Fridays 2x per month, 46 minutes. Opportunity for students to get one on one help. Teachers are asked to prioritize struggling students. It was created to advance the achievement gap, unfortunately it hasn't shown that so the school is hoping to address that. Freshmen are required to stay on campus and all others can leave.
    - Download Trivory app to see schedule
    - Earlier flex dates are used less but are often used to retake tests or quizzes or use as study hall
  - ACT and SAT...how to study...how do you feel about it?
    - The more studying you can do the better and be sure to check on when the tests are scheduled
    - One student noted that she is not submitting test scores because it is not as important as grades and extracurriculars
    - McGee said don't automatically submit as the testing centers offer for free...take test...see score and then decide if you want to
    - Juniors can take PSAT...325 Juniors have signed up so far for October
    - All sophomores are signed up for free
    - Juniors will take SAT in the spring at school

- What would you tell your freshman self?
  - Build relationships with teachers. Have a good reputation as a student. Be someone who is known to be a good student. Teachers are more likely to be understanding when something comes up.
  - Pay attention in class. Get out there in the community...find other students, join clubs and sports teams. Be involved in the community
  - Leadership is great class!
  - Club fair is happening in the gym soon. All the clubs have a table and you sign up...apple club...movie club...you can always start a club too
- Advice for someone who wants to be in leadership class?
  - One way to get in is to run for ASB
  - You can apply with an essay...write in a Doc and then add to Google Form
  - McGee recruits diverse voices and experiences with heart to heart communications
- What does leadership do?
  - 46 kids (this year) break into committees
  - Entertainment...school dances and after school events and fundraising
  - Spirit...spotlights sporting events and arts and Spirit weeks (three times)
  - Assemblies...games at assemblies and organizes plan
  - Social Media...plan posts
  - Clubs and Services...club fair
  - Tech and Trivory...TVs in hallways and load everything in Trivory (bell schedule, reminders, sports schedule)
- Social Media in school?
  - No social media posts are supposed to go out during the day
  - Trivory can be accessed on laptop...but also no updates during the school day
- How are kids receiving information?
  - Trivory, instagram, loudspeaker with morning announcements, tvs in hallways
- How do you find friends without phone?
  - Designated spot!
- What do you do for lunch?
  - School lunch is long line...so bring a lunch
  - Gone through phases...being late after lunch sucks...so limit your options
  - Blind Onion is a hot spot
  - Looking back...advise freshmen to stay on campus
  - Lots of good spots to sit
- How do you feel about the phone policy?
  - "Facts and studies make it needed for some people...if it is necessary for them then I am okay with it."
  - Harder for leadership to film things
  - Miss listening to music in class
  - Harder to find friends but it is something we can adjust to
  - Can't do QR codes so that is a little tricky
  - People are getting to know each other better..."I don't mind it as much"
  - More difficult to communicate with parents and non standard meetups
  - Hallway feels the same...last few minutes of class when kids scrolling has changed

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- Principal Report (Mr. McGee)
  - Lunch lines...they are long. We are working on it. PPS moved to free lunch for all but the staffing is not there and it is problematic. They are trying to staff up. October 7th lower commons is supposed to open, hopefully that will alleviate long lines. Looking to have students serve lunch as well. Also, lunch is too short...but we do not have the ability to schedule more. It is challenging. Make calls to the district...send emails!
    - Does the district have funding to staff...yes and no...there have been a lot of cuts. Due to strike we didn't see many cuts to teachers but we saw cuts in support staff, fewer secretaries, nutritional service staff
  - 6:00 to 8:30 BTS Night on the 18th. TAG at 5:30. 5:30 ELD sessions.
    - Gather in the gym for a welcome and then parents follow student schedule
    - Not time to have long talks with teachers. Goal is for teachers to share with parents goals and needs of the classroom and then teachers need to prepare for the next period.
  - Friday the 13th Grant first home football game in the bowl. No seating...bring your own lawn chair. Hopefully we get bleachers soon.
  - Thursday all student body picture in front of the building. Last year was the 100th school year. September 2nd was the actual 100th birthday. Goal is to get it done in 20 minutes
  - Friday birthday celebration...Current student body president, Class of 1974 and 1945 speakers. Talking about the meaning of Grant to them. Band will play. Royal Blues will do a song and the Royal Rosarians will plant a flower. Time capsule will be buried. Old time capsule can not be found where it was known to be. A map will be left for future admin...but capsule will not be buried in front of students!
  - Cell phones
    - McGee's 5th year...what the teachers are seeing is completely different. Classrooms have level of engagement that they haven't seen before. Admin go observe teachers often...students know they are not being watched...observation is for the teachers...so kids in the past have been on phones right in front of admin...this year we are not seeing that. We have had to take phones and we have had to enact the discipline policy. But this is a game changer. I am beyond happy. Our teachers are saying they can teach, our younger teachers say they have never experienced this. Older teachers say they haven't seen this in a long time. In the lunch line they are engaging. We don't do surveys asking, "should we provide a healthy meal?" We don't ask that. Most of the kids are still unhappy about it...but we have to do better when we know better. Kids are connecting with each other and the work.
    - Last week State Attorney general ...Eleanor Rosenblum (ER)...had a symposium here in Portland. Some came last Wednesday and talked to Affinity groups, leadership, mock trial and Con Team. Pennsylvania and NY Attorney Generals came too. ER's initiative has been social media. Students learned from AGs and they learned from students. ER thought kids were texting each other not that they were on social media. Kids said kids were on tik-tok the whole period. Kids are on social media the whole

school day. We have a goal of giving respite during the school day. AGs were surprised to hear that was happening. 42 AGs are suing social media companies over the danger and crisis they are creating for our students.

- Chromebook...no use of personal computers...in early August we made sure social media access was not there on chromebooks...asked district to disable all social apps. District said that two schools could not make this decision for all. So kids at Grant can still access those sites on chromebooks.
- Same 42 AGs sent letters to congress strongly suggesting warming ables on social media platforms
- Just as we had smoking rooms in the 80s...this is the right thing to do. We have to correct misinformation
- In an unofficial way we can partner with parents. Parents have left phones with us for a while as consequence for phone being taken.
- Teachers are happy, McGee is happy, many kids are happy and many are not. We need to remain consistent as a team.
- Is office overwhelmed?
  - Hasn't been an issue
  - Families do not need to talk to students during day...we need to retrain everyone
  - In emergency ...call main office...kids are being taught how to use phone
- How monitoring?
  - If we have any suspicion we ask to check backpacks. Kids believe we don't have the right to check...if we have reasonable cause we can check a student's backpack. We can and we will check. All we need is reasonable suspicion. We will be checking even more. Lawyers today said that we can do that.
- What is the goal of not getting rid of social media outlets from chromebooks from the district?
  - McGee does not know.
- Looking for volunteers who can give time from 8:00 to 9:00 to monitor doors. Students letting other students in the building is a problem. Looking to station parents at doors. That's how cell phones and the wrong people are coming in.
- Changing date for Prom as it is the first night of Passover...it was a Grant mistake...not intentional...located at a different location and date. It was actually a student that reached out. We immediately went into problem solving mode.

### **Business Executive Session**

- Confirm quorum of 5 voting members (Secretary)
  - Confirmed
- Announcements:
  - Mark your calendars for future general meeting dates: Tuesday November 12, Tuesday January 14, 2025, Tuesday March 11, Tuesday May 13.
  - Meetings alternate in person and in zoom. Will be on the website under the family resources tab as well as minutes from today.

- Treasurer report
  - Bank checking balance for the PTA: \$20,795.45
    - More than covers what we do in the year
  - Last year we about broke even and this year we will dip into funds
  - PTA only asks for membership and Fred Meyer's Rewards. That is the only way we fundraise. Classroom Grants and teacher appreciation is how we spend it. We do have a SchooPay link for general donations.  
<https://www.schoolpay.com/parent/payments/groups>
- Membership Report
  - Total membership: 44
    - Hoping for 125
  - QR codes on table to sign up
  - Plug for Fred Meyer Rewards
- New Business
  - Motion to Approve the amended 2024-2025 Standing Rules for PTA - printed copies available - or view on-line . Motion made by Monica Kearsley seconded by Melissa Sullivan, Motion passed.  
[W 2024-25\\_Grant PTA Standing Rules and Addendum.docx](#)
  - Motion to Approve the 2024-2025 Budget
    - Motion made by Alison Kalmuson seconded by member. Motion passed.
  - The Classroom Grant Program has gone on-line and been updated. Policy and Procedure sent to Administration for distribution to staff.  
[E 2024-2025 Grant HS PTA Classroom Grant Program P&P](#)
  - Classroom Grant Application Review and Vote
    - Grant Magazine Request for website \$500
    - English department request for books\$232
    - ISC and basic math vocational activities and life skills funds \$500
    - Chef Hale and culinary arts for consumables \$500
  - Motion to approve slate with clarification as to how money will be dispersed to ISC made by Monica Kearsley. Seconded by Melissa Sullivan. Motion approved.

**Meeting adjourned** (PTA President) 8:05 pm