

City High-Middle PTSA (PTCC)
6:45 p.m. • Snacks/Socialize
Membership Meeting • 7 p.m., Wednesday, November 20, 2019
City High Middle School, Room 108, 1720 Plainfield Ave. NE

Draft Minutes

1. **Call to order and welcome** - at 7:00 pm. 22 attendees including 6 students.
2. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes** - *approved*
3. **Approval of Current Agenda** (*additions, changes*) - *approved*
4. **Administrator Update(s) - Mr. Huppert, Principal**
 - a. Blue Ribbon Award ceremony
 - b. New mental health staff person on board
 - c. Hispanic celebration a success
5. **Executive Board updates - next generation of officers** -
 - a. Holly Downer is transitioning out of her role as Treasurer, as Carol Carr joins the board as the new Treasurer. They are working together this week on the transition.
 - b. The board is always looking for parents interested in joining the board. Contact one of us if interested.
6. **Committee and Event Reports**
 - a. Pie Sale - made about \$8900
 - b. RAM - Recycled Art Market report - made about \$7600
 - c. SANP/Senior Grad Committee - Barnes & Noble holiday wrapping event coming up; Van Andel will be the focus because it's lucrative - 8% of booth sales. Other groups interested in fundraising may want to look into this - they can potentially join through SANP.
 - d. Band - DC July 4 parade fundraising going well. Treasurer reports \$3100 towards goal of \$5000. Several local companies, churches, and individuals are chipping in.
 - e. PALs - conference meals going great - lots of parents bringing in lots of food; Cheri Dixon coordinating - thanks! Action Board and good parent response is encouraging to teachers. Pints with Parents was a successful and fun gathering - Mr. Huppert noted he got to go as a parent and just hang out with fellow parents!
 - f. Musical Theater - Very successful community event. \$11,000ish for ticket sales!!! averaging 330 people per night; approx. 55% increase in tix over last year; looking for a future team of parents to take on the coordinator role since Beth Cranson only has one more year at City. 80 students acted, played music, and worked behind the scenes to staff the show - approaching the size of the band! And so many parent volunteers!
 - g. Speech and Debate - going strong. See funding request below.
 - h. 6th Grades - no report
 - i. Chili Cook-Off - January 23, 2020 at the beautiful event space upstairs at Creston Brewery! Bring your best chili or just go for the tastings!
 - j. Auction - March 20, 2020 probably. Aisle 9 again maybe? Mr. Huppert will talk to

the owner and follow up with us.

7. Proposals/funding requests for membership vote on spending money

- a. *Colleen O'Rourke, 2018-19 Senior Grad/SANP parent* - From Colleen's email: "I propose that the PTSA donates \$5000 to the Senior All Night Party every year. This is not to be a loan, this is to be a "gift", that does not need to be repaid. I feel that the City seniors and their parents have worked/volunteered very hard for at least four, mostly six years and deserve some thank you for all they've done. The senior year is incredibly busy, stressful and emotional, and adding the need to fundraise an absurd amount of money is ridiculous. This money should be allocated in the fall of each year so that the All Night Party committee has a great start and can put deposits down for a venue and other miscellaneous items. It is a huge undertaking, and gifting these funds would take some of the stress off of those parents and students. The money is to be used at the discretion of each year's committee as long as it is put toward the party. If there are remaining funds, they can go to the next graduating class on top of their \$5000 PTSA gift."
 1. Colleen reminds us of the many City awards and amazing students that earn it. Senior parents have done a lot to raise money over the years.
 2. Feels she can hardly remember her son's senior year with all the SANP fundraisers parents ended up running.
 3. Proposes \$5000, 1/3 cost of party, the party is an "event that saves lives" as a better alternative to indiv. Parties that may have alcohol/drugs.
 4. Colleen's suggested sources of \$5K: RAM admissions, pie sales.
 5. Colleen is willing to be creative in thinking up and helping run new fundraisers for SANP, even though she doesn't have a senior this year.
 6. President gives some background of SANP, how it has so far been run as a 1-year committee of senior parents like 6th grades (with all the similar issues of diving in for 1 year with little prep and trying to pull off big things). The pie sale, ram, auction are the operating funds for all PTSA activities, including \$2K set aside for each year's SANP to get started booking venues, etc. (it is expected to be returned/left behind for the next class to do the same, so is not a straight-up grant.), and scholarships for senior students who can't afford the party cost, usu. \$100/student. (Chili cookoff money goes to Principal's Fund - not avail. for ptsa use). All money that is PTSA-raised each year is basically spent each year, going towards: teacher alloc. \$4K; \$15K student and community needs (we help with some costs for debate, theater, student requests for clubs and their philanthropic efforts like Winter Wishes, broader community support of struggling City families with gift cards at the holidays, plus a surprising amount of snacks for students (900+ students!) throughout the year for big testing days (exams, SATs, etc.), and more. Plus we are required by Michigan PTA to keep one extra year's budget aside as savings/maintenance.
 7. No \$ in budget to do this proposal this year. Board (current) can't

put on another event to fund it - already at our capacity. Others are welcome to do one. Good news is the the current senior parents are confident they'll be able to raise enough throughout the year for their costs, a class gift to the school, and still leave behind \$2K for next year's class to get started.

8. Board and membership in attendance are open to new ideas. The Van Andel concessions fundraiser that this year's SANP is setting up could work as an ongoing thing for each new senior parent group (we can develop some institutional knowledge to pass on). Another idea: Van Andel could be started earlier (sophomore families maybe) and accumulated by class or by student so that by senior year their party fee is already earned and set aside, and they could enjoy sr. year more, only needing 1 or 2 fundraisers.
 9. Usual cost: \$100 early pmt, \$125 later pmt, per student for 2018/19. Plus for 2018/19 PTSA did some scholarships and some senior parents sponsored other students, and venue costs were eventually reduced.
 10. Stephanie Sackett says it feels right for PTSA to do the scholarships. But those that can pay, please pay. Approaching fundraising activities as "is this something that needs to be fundraised for?" when evaluating effort/benefit.
 11. Another parent says consider indiv. Student fundraisers - a kid can sell candy for ex. To pay for their own party fee.
 12. Consider having at City? No, Mr Huppert says they're already grads and GRPS won't cover liability for non-students.
 13. Mr Huppert reminded us that previous years haven't had the struggles that last year's sr. parents did. For example, 2017-18 had \$4K extra to buy the school a gift of some weather-proof entry rugs with the new logo. 2018-19 was not a typical SANP experience.
 14. Another parent said she has a student at another school that has the Junior families raise money and staff the overnight event for srs. - there is interest in this at City. Along those lines this year's SANP has reached out to junior parents to help and learn the ropes.
 15. Another idea from another school: parents are requested to make a \$50 donation each year starting in 9th grade, accumulating for senior party. Appealing idea in the room.
 16. Holly (treasurer) asked for a volunteer to look into a possible new big fundraiser and go thru options with us as an ongoing discussion. No one volunteered right then, but we could pursue with outreach to the broader City community.
 17. Angela (president) proposed that we table Colleen's specific proposal for now and look into the ideas discussed this evening, including shifting to a younger class for the future. The attendees agreed. *No vote taken.*
- b. *Debate - State fees \$450/year.* From Mr. Harris's email: "In past years, the PTSA has supported the program by covering that State dues, similar to being a

member of an athletic association. The MIFA dues not only supports the state-wide speech and debate activities, but permits our students to compete at State tournaments for both Middle School and High School, in debate and in speech. For practical budgeting purposes, I would certainly like to see the former practice continue. In the remainder of the semester we will see significant expenses around the Metro League debate program, backstopping funds for the Model UN and the State debate tournament, as well as the possible renting of a bus for a trip to Wayne State for the State Debate Tournament in December. Thank you for your consideration.”

- i. We usually set aside the \$450. Will we continue?
 - ii. Mr. Harris gave an update on State debate activities and more.
 - iii. This City group wins awards - serious debaters! Emma G. and R. Himebaugh are standouts! Middle schoolers too!
 - iv. Similar to athletic assn. dues., generic support.
 - v. Treasurer said this amount was in past budgets but it was buried and we missed including it in this year’s approved budget. But it seems we can come up with the money and we’ll make sure it gets its own line item in next year’s budget.
 - vi. *Vote: Unanimous approval for \$450 state dues this year and ongoing each year.*
- c. *Student podcast with English teacher Ms. Mapes.* “My students are in the midst of starting a podcast discussing YA novels. We have a few equipment needs that we would like to ask the PTSA to help us in purchasing.” Student proposal reads in part, “We would like to start an informational podcast to discuss and present books that a guest would suggest... to encourage picky readers to expand their literary horizons...In order to do so, we would have to purchase 3 \$30 microphones from Amazon. We would also need a subscription to Buzzsprout podcast, which costs \$12/month. Buzzsprout is targeted towards new podcasts trying to get started, so it would be perfect for us...”
- i. Ms Mapes presents proposal (students unable to attend).
 - ii. 15-20 minute podcast called “Treat Yo Shelf” :)
 - iii. Students share favorite books with the world, and would end up with published content (could be used for each student to their credit) out in the world - pretty cool!
 - iv. \$234 ask with ongoing monthly cost. Ms Mapes is willing to use her \$100 teacher stipend, so \$134 ask for this year.
 - v. There will be 3 hosts and any 7th or 8th graders who want to join the club can be guests. Potential benefit to large number of students.
 - vi. *Vote: unanimous approval of \$134 for this year. Reapply next year for the ongoing \$12 monthly cost for hosting.*
- d. *Winter Wishes Giving Campaign, City Senior Bella Netti:* Emailed proposal reads in part, “Mr. Huppert suggested that I reach out to you...If you remember from last year, Winter Wishes is a giving campaign designed to fulfill wishes made on behalf of students. The students make an anonymous suggestion into a “wish box” of gifts they would like for other students to receive. These gifts are need based items such as school supplies, winter clothes and personal items. Mr. Huppert has already committed to donating \$1000 to fund part of the campaign! I was hoping that the PTSA would be willing to match his donation of \$1000. This

generous donation would allow us to fulfill all the wishes that are deemed reasonable and potentially really help out some of the families in our community this holiday season!"

- i. Successful last year, they'd like to continue.
- ii. Amendment to proposal suggested by Principal Huppert: PTSA usually provides some holiday gift cards for struggling City families in coordination with school counselor, \$800 last year. Winter Wishes will also coordinate with counselor and principal. How about PTSA gives \$500 to Winter Wishes as part of our holiday giving (same budget line Community Cares), since it's for the same purpose/same families?
- iii. Winter Wishes used \$1500 last year - the need is there.
- iv. *Vote: unanimous approval of \$500 for Winter Wishes student effort.*
- e. *Student Swirl Committee* - Raquel Bello, 2022 Class President. Valeria, Emily,
 - i. Photo booth has become a staple of the dance to solidify memories.
 - ii. Ask: \$350 (Briton-Fowler quote) and needed by Jan. for Feb. event. Ask Mr. Terpstra, too. May give us a better deal. Will Raquel email Mr. Terpstra? Yes, she'll try.
 - iii. *Vote: unanimous approval for up to \$300, students getting bids and will update PTSA.*

8. Questions - none

9. Adjournment at 8:20 pm.