

Kyrene de la Sierra General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 11 April 2018

Attendees: Lisa Conner, Shannon Reagan, Niccoli Anderson, Heather Ruane, Alison Pinkston, Tara Bellino, Stephanie Nuttall, Tracey Hutton, Kim Graber, Ann Trent, Meredith Scheerer, Erin Myers, Chris Greno, Diana Velez-Johnson, Michael Reagan, Robin Carey, Dee Hruschka, Libby Garza, Johanna Segura, Monica Gellman.

Welcome: Shannon Reagan

Shannon welcomed everyone to her last general meeting as president of the PTO, and explained to all in attendance that this meeting would focus mainly on the Internet Safety Presentation given by Matt Schiumo from the Office of the Attorney General. She referred parents to the packet handed out to find general meeting minutes, treasury report and important dates for the remainder of the school year.

Shannon announced the PTO Board for the 2018/2019 school year:

President - Stephanie Nuttall

Co-Vice President - Tara Bellino/ Kim Graber

Co-Secretary - Tracey Hutton/ Paula Baxter

Treasurer - Katie Ball

Financial Administrator - Daniel Der

Volunteer Coordinator - Heather Ruane

Communications - Niccoli Anderson

Principal's Report: Lisa Connor

Lisa provided parents with a little history regarding "Red for Ed" and talked about her own space as administrator. She explained to parents that she finds herself in an interesting space as an administrator who has to maintain policies, while at the same time an educator who desires to support teachers. She is only able to provide factual information to parents. There is a long list of guidelines that employees have to follow with regard to "Red for Ed" that has now been made available by the district. She stated that in the event of a walk out and school closures, parents would be notified if sufficient time was given by the parties involved. Any school days missed would be made up in the summer at no additional pay for teachers. Lisa encouraged parents to talk to their neighbours and stay informed with accurate information. She then opened the floor for questions. There was some discussion as to the practicalities of a walk out scenario. Parents expressed their admiration for teachers on social media who have demonstrated concern for their students should a walk out have to take place.

Shannon then added that the school would continue on with events as planned, and in the event of a walkout, the schedule would be adjusted accordingly.

Internet Safety Presentation: Matt Schiumo

Matt works for the Community Outreach Department at the Attorney General's Office and travels around the state of Arizona giving presentations to students, parents, and senior citizens with the goal of "Educating to Prevent and Protect "

He spoke about the various age groups that he encounters who are on social media and encouraged parents to ask questions at any time.

Matt focused on Snapchat and Facebook, but informed parents that there are currently over 4 million apps available on the app store, so covering all would be impossible.

Snapchat misconceptions: Many students believe that pictures and comments made on snapchat are in fact deleted and will never be able to be seen again. This is not the case as the person that they have sent the message or image to is able to take a screen shot of what they have received. That screen shot goes into their camera roll just as if they had received a text message, and that will remain forever. The lesson to students is how fast that image or message can travel once it has been sent. It can go around their school, other schools and can even end up on the internet. The other piece about Snapchat is that the pictures or text messages sent via Snapchat go through the company's servers. You have no idea what they will do with that information, or who they may sell it to. The point for students is that just because they can't see it, doesn't mean it is gone. Geolocation feature should be turned off as it is able to pin point location of the user by their friends or if their account is public, it is available to anyone. Parents need to discuss with their children the dangers of making your location available to others. Parents should also ensure that their children have privacy restrictions set on their social media accounts. Use your email address to set up your child's account. Know what your kids are signing up for. Communicate openly with your children and allow them the freedom to come and talk to you if they feel sad, scared or confused. Don't unintentionally give out informations about them, share their birthdays etc on social media. They recommend parents do a credit check on their children to determine how much information is available.

Cyber Bullying is something to talk about with students as there are laws on it and no matter how young students are, they can be charged with a cyber bullying related crime. This may be called "Harrasment via Electronic Means" which is the use of technology to intentionally hurt, harm, harass or embarrass another person. There are consequences to cyber bullying later in life when applying for colleges and jobs. Students and parents can go to principals, counsellors and law enforcement to report cyber bullying. It is important to document your evidence by taking screenshots or providing email evidence.

Being anonymous online is very dangerous. The application "[ask.fm](https://www.ask.fm/)" is one to be avoided. It is essentially where students can set up an account and anonymously ask each other questions. The consequences of this have been extremely negative, and this is one to be avoided at all costs.

Things to do:

Discuss cyber bullying and internet challenges with your children.

Monitor your home computer and have it in a public space.

Know your child's accounts and passwords.

Know what apps they are using on their phones. (your phones)

Click on all the apps and open them to check that the tiles are 'real'.

Stay away from private chat rooms.

Use social media for positive outcomes like "The ice bucket challenge" to raise money.

Matt concluded his presentation by showing parents a video presentation put together by Colby Persin showing quite how easy it is for a pedophile to pick up children using social media. Persin poses as a 15 year old boy on social media and with their parent's permission organises to meet up with 3 girls, ages 12,13 and 14. A thought provoking and eye opening conclusion to a most informative presentation.

Shannon concluded the meeting by thanking the speaker for his informative presentation and the parents and staff members in attendance.

I would like to take this opportunity as PTO secretary to sincerely thank Shannon for her years of service to Sierra PTO in various capacities. She has gone above and beyond her call of duty, always available to help, and a wealth of knowledge to those of us who are new to the board. Thank you Shannon for your commitment to our school and its students. You will be missed and fondly remembered for your incredible contribution to our school.

