

## Grant PTA General Meeting

Date: March 11, 2025

Location: Grant High School Library

# TO APPROVE

### General Meeting - Call to order at 6:33pm Sandy McDaniel

- Welcome & Introduction from President (PTA President)
  - Thank you to membership
  - Icebreaker...where are you going for Spring Break?!

### Business Executive Session 6:35pm - 6:55 pm

- Confirm quorum of 5 voting members
  - Quorum confirmed by secretary (show of hands)
- Announcements and President's Report
  - Mark your calendars for future general meeting date: May 13, 2025 when we will have elections for next year's Board.
  - **Interested in helping build community at Grant?** The Board is actively looking for people to participate next year as Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Know someone new to the community who might be interested? Reach out to: Sandy McDaniel, President at grantpta@grantpta.com. Being on the Board takes ~2-3 hours per month, and does not require prior experience with PTA.
  - Our PTA's focus is concentrated in:
    - Staff Appreciation (24-25sy budget \$5,500) – we provide meals/snacks a couple times per year (165 head count) and during Teacher Appreciation Week to honor their commitment to learning and the Grant community – so far we have provided meals during
      - Staff Development before school started,
      - Winter Breakfast just before break,
      - (upcoming) Staff Appreciation week in May, and
      - Something at the close of school
    - Teacher/Classroom grants (24-25SY budget \$3,000) that assist with extra expenses for school-centered learning. We have given grants to:
      - Culinary Program (for consumable supplies)
      - Grant Magazine (to transfer their website to a new platform)
      - Writers in the Schools Program run by Literary Arts (PTA funds only since the district no longer provides funding)

- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Writer’s Workshop (for a set of books),
    - the Leadership Class (for supplies, celebrations, and items for school-wide events)
    - The 4-Star Hunger Project – helping to bridge the gap between school-provided meals and weekend food needs.
    - The PTA Clothing Closet which furnishes age-appropriate clothing that fits children in need and allows them to dress as their peers, encouraging positive self-esteem, academic success and regular class attendance.
  - Building community by providing opportunities to gather based on special topics like tonight’s meeting.
  - Our PTA is funded solely through memberships (a portion of which goes to the state and national organizations to fund educational advocacy efforts), Fred Meyer Rewards, and donations. Working budget of about 10K
  - Our next date for the PTA Clothing Closet is May 1 from 9:30 am - 1:30 pm. A SignUp will be posted in the Grantonian closer to the date.
- Secretary Report
  - There are no minutes for the January Executive session
- Treasurer report
  - Bank checking balance for the PTA: \$ 17,478.23
  - Budget Report
- Membership Report
  - Total membership: 124
  - Total needed: 175, budget shortfall of 51 members = \$790 we don’t have to support programs
- New Business
  - A nominating committee for next year’s Board is to be formed
  - **YES FOR Portland Schools** summary of the 2025 PPS School Bond and request for endorsement
    - Gary Hollands, PPS Board Member
    - Bond coming (May 20<sup>th</sup>) to renovate remaining high schools (Ida B Wells and Cleveland) . Grant grandstand and lights (ie “Master Plan”) are in the bond as well as some monies for addressing middle school deferred maintenance. Some other schools also have sports field monies from renovations that were not completed.
      - No list of middle schools yet
        - Facilities study needs to be done
      - Jefferson already has been funded in the previous bond measure
      - Grant . Franklin, Roosevelt (possibly 4<sup>th</sup> school) for facilities upgrades
      - The new measure will not raise taxes. Taxed at same rate as prior years.
        - Won’t have absolute cost of school improvements before the May vote

- Material costs have gone up, tariff costs = result in higher construction numbers
- Ready to mitigate how much we spend. New system in place.
- Sandy McDaniel moves that the Grant PTA endorse the 2025 PPS Bond. Melissa Sullivan seconded. Motion passed with membership present.

**Special Topic** 7:00 pm – 8:00pm

**Attendance – From Absent to Present – Helping Students Show Up and Succeed**

Lisa Kensel, *Oregon PTA President* – Sharing a Statewide and National perspective from the workgroup on attendance and how PTA advocates for all children. (10 mins)

James McGee, *Principal* – Sharing the impact of poor attendance on Grant’s community and on student success. He will also share his vision and action plan for making improvements in attendance.

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Lisa Kensel joins Senators Weber and Nguyen on a committee on absenteeism with OPTA . Bill coming forward on absenteeism. Chronic absenteeism is a Community issue...parents, admin and teachers have to work together to address this issue

18 days counts as chronic absenteeism. About 20% of our Oregon population is chronically absent, putting Oregon as one of the highest in the country. See attached presentation.

McGee presented:

On Attendance:

- 37% of Grant students chronically absent or worse
- Planning new protocols for participation in sports and extracurriculars (85% in previous year and 90% during sports season). Students marked with a skip on the day of a performance or match are not allowed to participate. Working with the district to make that work and hope to implement 4<sup>th</sup> quarter to work out kinks.
- We do not have an attendance coach currently...working on hiring that
- Need parent support...don’t call kiddo in as absent if that isn’t the case
- Looking at incentives...for kiddos with high and improving attendance rates, competitions by class (All In April), perfect attendance breakfast mid and end of year
- Attendance Supports...bring back after school detention, attendance intervention meetings, Re-engagement meetings, reconnections referral

- Engage community partners...SEI, BPI (black parent initiative) asked to lean in with students and families
- Grant graduation rates are up due to an increased focus on determining barriers to attendance and addressing root causes. It takes a lot of resources to do this.

On Graduation cords

- Pulling back on the cords
- Kids comparing cords/shaming...needs to stop
- Need to focus on the gains of the experience...not just completing something to get a cord
- Why not take all away? Some are district lead and left in Affinity Groups.

AVID	Gold, Purple, Silver (by years in AVID)	See M. Wolfer; Current AVID 12 only	C			
CTE/Career & Technical Education	Teal, Burnt Orange, Citrus Green single braided cord	The 3 required courses in an area of study.	C			
Japanese Immersion Program	Red & White - 1 red cord and 1 white cord tied at neck	Successful completion of all four SOGO immersion courses at Grant	C		white	None
National Honor Society	Double Gold, tied at neck	3.3GPA and Community Service Volunteer Hours.	C			None
Biliteracy	Gold Medals	Must show Advanced Level Proficiency in a world language - a score of 4 or better on AP Exam.	M	none	None	None
Asian Pacific Islander Alliance	Stole	Club participation	S		none	none
Black Student Union	Black/Red/Green Stole	Club participation	S			
Indigenous Peoples Student Union	Stole	Club participation	S			
Jewish Student Union	Stole	Club participation	S		writing	
MEChA	Stole	Club participation	S	Sarape Mexico colors	none	none
Queer Straight Alliance	Rainbow Stole (Black with Rainbow diagonals at ends)	Members of QSA	S	Red & Orange	Yellow & Green	Blue & Purple