



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, Sept 14, 2021 9:30am

Online Zoom Meeting

Welcome and Introduction – Alison Meyer

- Explanation of Plant Academic Foundation purpose
- Fundraisers (Membership drive, Spring Faculty Honor Roll, and Business Partnerships) fund grants to teachers and programs at Plant High
- 61K worth of grants went back into classrooms last year alone
- Highlights of last year's grants-
 - Projectors and cameras for simultaneous in-person and online learning
 - Instruments for band
 - Academic software
 - ROTC
 - Hydroponic Garden

PTSA- Damaris Allen

- PTSA is the largest and oldest child advocacy groups in the world
- Plant PTSA supports teachers and focuses on staff appreciation
- Plant PTSA has an active student board. Some activities are First Fridays and murals on campus
- The first PTSA meeting is next Thursday, Sept 23.

Athletic Foundation- Gwen Gillen

- Gwen is the Treasurer-elect speaking on behalf of the Athletic Foundation president today
- The Athletic Foundation supports t all sports at Plant.
- Fundraising is done through membership fees, The Paw store, and concession stand at Dad's stadium manned by parents of all sports
- Attendee Question—How much is the donation amount requirement to get booster passes? - \$150 = one season pass, \$300 =two passes. QR code is given to season pass holders to get into all of regular season/ non-playoff games.
- District changed the price of the season pass, so cost to Athletic Foundation is bigger this year.

- The Athletic Foundation funded shortage of varsity letters for last year. If athlete didn't get letter last year, it should be coming soon.

Membership Update – Janet Knust

- Academic Foundation has had a good start with 101 donors/ 25K so far. Thank you to all donors.
- The current donor list was updated on Sunday. If you donated yesterday, your name is not yet shown but will be shortly.
- Membership donations go directly back to teachers.
- Question- Is the donor list posted on the website? Answer- Yes, it is posted on the Academic Foundation website

Business Partner Update – Mary Margaret Braddock

- Thanks to all business partners. 25 percent of income for grants comes from business partners, very significant.
- This year's top donors to date:

A Big Thank You!!
To our Academic Foundation Business Partners.

Summa Cum Laude













Magna Cum Laude

- The James & Amy Shimberg Foundation
- Steven Kanfer, MD, PA
Board Certified in Child, Adolescent and Adult Psychiatry
- University Consultants of America, Inc.
- Weekley, Schulte, Valdes, Murman, Tonelli

Cum Laude













- Members are encouraged to consider having their businesses become a partner. All info to join is on the website, along with info about each donor tiers.
- Business partners have donated 16K to date, with the goal of 25K for the year.

Treasurer's Report – Lexy Schwartz

- Annual Audit (required per bylaws) occurred in July and was successfully passed
- Primary sources of income are business partnerships, membership drive, and Spring Faculty Honor Roll fundraiser.
- Last year was phenomenal year for donations to PAF.
- Primary Expenses are majority faculty grants and some admin costs. Anticipated expenses are shown on the budget spreadsheet throughout the year.
- Goal is to manage funds with reserve cash balance of 5K
- Proposed Budget presented. It was passed at the September PAF board meeting. \$61K target income.
- Budget to Actual Spreadsheet presented. Actuals shown through August
- September Grant request synopsis: Roughly 24k requests total. (16k is technology, 3k portable power system for band, 1500 for marine science kits, remainder classroom supplies)

New Business/Announcements

- Next month's general membership meeting speaker will be a panel of counselors discussing college application process
- PAF GM meetings will be via Zoom until we are allowed back on campus.

➤ **Business portion of meeting is adjourned.**

Speaker– Mr. Bush

Plant 101

- Thank you to parent volunteers.
- Reported that he has applied to fellowship at Columbia University NYC and was accepted.
- Mrs. Hellenberg is your go-to Assistant Principal for academic matters.
- Mrs. Melnick is the new Assistant Principal for admin/ athletics. (Formerly was Mrs. Otero who has taken a district position.)
- 2541 students currently enrolled as of 9/13; over capacity.
- Plant is one of three high schools in Hillsborough County that maintained an A rating last year.
- E-learning took a toll last year, but Plant students performed well despite of it.
- Plant is ranked 35 in Florida, but Mr. Bush stresses that ranking is not apples to apples. He believes the ranking is more like number 2 if you disregard magnet and specialty schools.
- If you live in the Plant district, you go to Plant. Plant competes with prestigious private schools in the area and offers both dual enrollment and AP classes.
- Refer to the Plant 101 publication if looking for information. It is found on the Plant website. It will have all contact info for staff and teachers.
- Brag sheet for plant accomplishments is provided to guests when touring Plant as prospective students moving in from out of area.
- Covid Update- Mask mandate extended to Oct 15 for now. Plant numbers are down because students wearing masks are not being quarantined when adjacent students test covid +.

- Plant will comply with current district masking policy and staff is directed to be neutral in opinion about mask mandate,
- Teacher conference night (virtual) is tonight, September 14.
- Canvas is the vessel for communication between teachers/ students/ parents.
- Freshmen parents are encouraged to schedule conferences with teachers regardless of student grades.
- Students are also encouraged to be their own advocates.
- Safety is a priority- Fire drills and active shooter drills are still happening.
- Social media issues - Please say something if you see/ hear something concerning. Reported issues are taken to school resource officer. He encourages families to have dinner together to have conversations.
- Extracurricular activities at Plant are very busy. Chorus, band, orchestra, cross country are all ramping up. Plant volleyball team is ranked 12th in nation. Football team is 3-0 in district play.
- Volunteers on campus- Campus could possibly be open to volunteers after next week. Plant relies on parents for mentoring, college readiness center

Mr. Bush opens up meeting to questions.

- **When will the bathrooms reopen?**
Bathrooms aren't closed, but due to vaping some bathrooms are closed 1st 10 minutes of class and last 10 minutes of class, plus during lunches. The main hall bathrooms are always open, but peripheral bathrooms have times that they are not open due to vaping, theft of supplies, vandalism.
Vaping issue- (Mr. Bush shows his box confiscated student vape pens.) Although students are getting caught vaping at school, staff cannot search students or their backpacks. If caught, students have to complete an online course. Repeat offenders are very common despite this course.
- **What help do you need from parents?**
Teacher appreciation via PTSA is very appreciated. Teachers are taking on extra work by covering for each other when needed (sub shortage), taking on extra classes and forgoing their planning periods. They are not getting breaks in their day.
- **Can there be consistency in teacher communication styles on Canvas?**
Canvas IS the consistency. He can't instruct the teachers how to use canvas, but reach out to teacher if you need more information from them. Teacher contract states that they have 72 hours to return an email or phone call. He encourages a faster response, but that is what they are contractually obligated to do.
- **Can you speak to student college application support while Mrs. Moseley is out on maternity leave?**
Two volunteers a day are helping at college readiness center. The other counselors filling in for while she is on maternity leave. Start with student's guidance counselor first if you need help. Comment from attendee: Another great option for college help is University Consultants. Mr. Bush says he can't promote them, but he is all for things that help students.
- **How do we get guidance counselors to be more responsive?**
If they don't answer in 72 hours, reach out to vice principal.

- **Are there any plans for expanding parking for sophomores or juniors?**
Sophomore parking won't be happening. Juniors that did not receive a park pass already can get on a wait list.
- **Do we need to call out NCAA eligibility to guidance counselor?**
Mrs. Louann Tolbert is the NCAA expert/ guru and they refer to her. Email Mr. Bush and he will help facilitate.)
- **Will there be a senior kickoff meeting & packet like in the past?**
Look for in-person parent info event in the next couple of weeks. Maybe sessions in the evening, split up by alphabet (format still TBD.) School has been waiting for campus to possibly be open to visitors.
Seniors met with guidance counselors in their English classes already. They should have received a senior packet then.
Heather Criser offers more on college guidance: Everyday of the week there are two volunteers in guidance office to help any student with college application process. Students can come during their lunch period for help with applications, Naviance, etc.
- **Pre covid there was a college night. Is there going to be one this year?**
College nights will be virtual again. Nothing in person on campus.

Mr Bush encourages parents to email him if something wasn't answered today.

➤ **Meeting Adjourned**