

Academie Da Vinci
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 District Number: 52
 School Number: 7131
 School type: Elementary

Regular Charter School

District Name: PINELLAS
 Congressional District: 10
 House District : 45
 Senate District : 13

Academie Da Vinci

PTA General Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 21, 2019

Summary 6:30pm Meeting Kicked Off

Carrie Sammel – President

Agenda

- Welcomed everyone
- Keeping to a strict agenda and time frame because we value everyone's time.

Tera Creney – Balloween Chair

- Balloween is this Saturday Oct 26th at DMS.
- K-3 is from 4-5:30 and 4-8th is from 5:30-7
- Still need 4 more volunteers for this event
- 4th grade will be selling food as a fundraiser for their St. Augustine Trip.
- Tera will email all those who have volunteered later this week.

Carrie Sammel - President

- PTA and PTO
- There was an information PTO Organization meeting that was held on Tuesday Oct 15.

	PTA	PTO
Definition	A local parent group formally affiliated with its state's PTA organization and the National PTA.	A local, independent parent group; in other words, any non-PTA group.
How Many?	The National PTA reports close to 24,500 units.	Approximately 60,000 PTOs in the United States.
Dues required	Yes.	No. The decision to charge dues is up to the local group.
Dues- how much?	A conservative estimate is that the average local PTA unit sends nearly \$550 to its state PTA and to the National PTA in dues payments	It is up to your group; if you charge dues, the entire amount you collect stays at your school. Many PTOs choose to charge no dues as a way to foster parent involvement.
Insurance Required	Varies by state. Most often, yes.	No but it is highly recommend that all groups get insurance.
Insurance Cost	We paid a little over \$350 this year for PTA	Estimated \$400-\$750 depending on agents
Total Cost for Group	Average \$650 to \$850 annually, depending on the number of local members and the per-member state dues. You can get exact costs for your state from your state PTA organization.	\$0 (with no 501(c)(3) application and no insurance). \$275 one-time fee for 501(c)(3) application. \$484 to \$825 annually for Plus membership and insurance.

	PTA	PTO
Advocacy	Required. The National PTA is openly an advocacy organization for a variety of policy initiatives. Local PTA units cannot advocate publicly against PTA-approved positions.	Not required. Groups may choose to play an advocacy role; however, many PTOs opt to remain strictly focused on parent involvement, school/teacher/student support, and community-building at the local school.
National Voice	Yes. Your group is part of state and national policy and advocacy efforts. Members may have an opportunity to take part in determining National PTA positions.	No. Most PTOs devote their energies to a single school or perhaps a single district or town.
Umbrella Organization	The National PTA has more than 50 paid employees at its Alexandria, Va., headquarters or in Washington, D.C. Some state PTA offices have an additional paid staff member. Most national and state PTA revenues come from local unit dues.	There is no "national PTO" umbrella organization for independent parent groups. PTO Today is a media and services company with 30-plus employees that aims to serve both PTO and PTA local groups. The vast majority of PTO Today's income is from paid advertising.

- Important Facts and Questions that have surfaced
 - o Only an estimated 24% of Parent Groups are PTA
 - o It has been noticed by ADV PTA members at multiple County PTA meetings that PTA does NOT support charter schools despite their claimed stance on their website.
 - o The initial mention to transition was made by a member, not the executive board. We are in no way trying to do a hostile takeover.
 - o Our PTA team has presented both the pros and cons of both PTA and PTO as well as offered multiple resources for review.
 - o This has not been a behind closed door discussion. We have been addressing PTA vs PTO for a great deal of 2019 and this is noted in the minutes (Feb 21, March 21, May 9th)
 - o PTA as an organization, not here at ADV but at the State and National level, will still continue to exist and advocate for ALL children who attend ALL public schools whether we are members or not. So please don't think we will be losing anything as far as free lunch or anything along those lines if we choose to dissolve PTA.
- If you are discussing a choice between PTO and PTA...
 - o Determine your group's goals (For example: is national political advocacy a priority?)
 - o Determine which resources you'd take advantage of most and what your group is willing to pay for those.
 - o Figure out which acronym is the best fit for your group based on the above preferences.
 - o Make your choice, then get back to the most important work of building parent involvement.
- Morgan DiGiorgio brought up that several parents (around 10) had reached out to her with concerns about the PTO and the transition/creation of it. Those 10 did not attend the PTO Informational Meeting she noted.
- Richie Koster addressed this; there is no official PTO executive board, we have a team in place that are following PTOtoday guidelines (see "How to Start a PTO" attachment) to create the PTO. Down the road at a later date there will be a vote for a new PTO Executive Board.
- Mrs. Morgan handed out the PTO today guidelines to those present at the meeting. (also attached "How to Start a PTO")
- Allen Relkin raised a question on how will the new PTO be able to fill all of the positions when this year's PTA was having a hard time filling the positions.
- Barb Joyce addressed this, there is so much that PTA has to be compliance in with the national PTA for every single roll, that each person does in their free time. PTO would consist of parents, board members

& community members to create the executive board. PTO would also have less meetings and required training that takes members away from families.

- Andie Rice Tanner also added that this has always been an issue having difficulty filling board positions. The larger issue at hand is all the compliance issues the PTA faces, example: how we raise funds with fundraising, how we can use those funds etc.
- Carrie Sammel noted again that this came up last year when parents were addressing how to utilize the PTA funds after we purchased both buildings. PTA addressed what we could and could not use the funds for per the compliance rules of the National PTA. Which was when PTO popped up in discussion.
- A question about grants was brought up if we will lose anything switching to a PTO. ADV has not applied for any grants, however there are grants out there.
- Carrie Sammel noted that at the last meeting it was unanimous from those members that attended to continue in the direction of creating a PTO.
- Shannon Evans brought up laying out all the pro/cons for both the PTA/PTO
- Carrie Sammel address this that the PTA has made available websites and links with information on both organizations.
- Mrs. Morgan read an informational article (please see "PTA Charter Stance" attachment) also noting that when you pay your dues it goes to support the National PTA agenda whether you like what it is or not.
- Carrie Sammel said at the upcoming November PTA meeting we will have an anonymous vote on whether we should move forward with PTO. PTA is only required by the by laws to have an official vote on dissolving the PTA – this vote will be later in the school year. PTA has also sent out and made available plenty of information on PTA/PTO with website links with information on both organizations.

Fall Fundraiser – Amy Winstead

- Officially started last Friday and will run for 2 weeks, ending November 4th
- This is the PTA's biggest fundraiser of the year.
- Fun Prizes for the kids: Principal Taxi, Shark Keychains, Florida Aquarium Show (sell 6 items), Limo Ride (sell 15 items – 20 items for siblings), 4 no uniform passes (20 items)

Mrs. Morgan - Principal

- 4 students qualified for Regional Choir.
- This Friday will be our first student led assembly.
- Nov 11 will be a student led Veterans Assembly
- In the process of building an ADV Alum Association
- Would love to add National Honor Society in the future
- In the process of connecting with Charter School Connection Team to be a part of.
- Winter Show: 4-8th Dec 16th and K-3 Dec 17th both at Countryside High School
- Spring Shows will be at Dunedin High School
- Nov 6th Dunedin High School will come to speak to 8th grade about high school.

Barb Joyce – Budget

- 2 small changes noted on the revised budget
- Changed the wording to the last line item to Projected Funds Available
- Added in Teacher Proposals
- Amy Winstead motioned to approve all agreed.

Carrie Sammel - President

- Reflections
 - o Deadline is Nov 15th
 - o This year's theme is "Look Within"
 - o Guidelines and Entry Forms: <https://www.pta.org/home/programs/reflections/>
 - o Categories are Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography and Visual Arts
- Housekeeping
 - o Continue sending in Box Tops on Fridays (if kids send in 10 or more, they get to go to Miss Julie for treasure box)

- Continue to support ADV on AmazonSmile
- Continue sending in your old uniforms for our school uniform swap/recycle program.
- Upcoming Dates:
 - Oct 25 All Pro Dads 7:30-8am North Cafeteria
 - Oct 26 Balloween – K-3 4-5:30 and 4-8th 5:30-7
 - Oct 29 Report Cards go home
 - Nov 4 Fall Fundraiser Packets are due
 - Nov 11 Student Led Veterans Assembly
 - Nov 13 Great American Teach-In
 - Nov 18 Next PTA meeting at 6pm
 - Nov 20 Dress Down Day - \$1 to participate
 - Nov 23-Dec 1 Thanksgiving Break
 - Dec 3 Fall Fundraiser Product Pick Up
 - Dec 16 ADV 4-8th Winter Show
 - Dec 17 ADV K-3rd Winter Show
 - Dec 18 Dress Down Day - \$1 to participate
 - Dec 19 Florida Aquarium Show for Fall Fundraiser
 - Dec 21-Jan6 Winter Break
 - Jan 10 Limo Ride for Fall Fundraiser

Meeting Adjourned 7:37pm.

President Approval

Date

Secretary Approval

Date