



SYCAMORE RIDGE PTA
General Association Meeting Agenda 9/14/2021

Called to order by: Gregory Reade, PTA President at 6:05 p.m.

Date: Tuesday, September 14th, 2021

Attendance: Gregory Reade (PTA), Megan Scanderbeg (PTA), Lou Lu (PTA), Sandy Tanaka (PTA), Maggie Jin (PTA), Sara Lake (PTA), David Turchetti (PTA), Emily (PTA), Bhaswar Sarkar, Sarah Sargen, Nelson Ortega, Sang Eun Lee, Oskana O'Neill, Sruthi Mahadevan, Derya Dursun Balci and Ms. Moore.

President/Gregory Reade

- Welcome/call to order at 6:05pm
- Volunteer with your PTA

Committee Reports

- Annual Giving Campaign Update
 - Sandy giving updated numbers:
 - \$26,590 collected so far
 - 20% of families participating
 - 21% K
 - 22% 1
 - 22% 2
 - 26% 3
 - 25% 4
 - 31% 5
 - 28% 6
 - Would love more participation, no matter the donation level
 - Really important because we may not be able to do carnival this year.
 - Sara thinks we could be getting higher participation due to newsletter prompting families to reactivate their membership via Membership Toolkit
 - Sara has created a flyer and will work with Chelsea and room parents. We have never started so early, but that's great.
 - Chelsea is happy to do a phone message on membership. Also can add to Facebook page and Twitter feed. Sandy said that phone message was super successful last year, so she hopes it will help this year too.
 - David Turchetti says that his job is fundraising and he's happy to give a business review of how we are communicating to see if there are things to improve. He

works for non-profit org based in NY. Sara would love to set up team meeting for this.

- Lou clarified that numbers did not include corporate matching.

Treasurer/Chung (Lou) Lu

- 2020-2021 Audit Report from Nicole
 - Nicole audits us and says we are in good standing. We have one item to address on the teacher donation
 - Motion to approve: Sara
 - Second: Maggie
 - Motion passes
- 2021 Annual Financial Statement
 - Motion to pass: Megan
 - Second: Sara
 - Motion passes
- Transaction Report since last General Assoc meeting (4/13/2021 - 09/14/2021)
 - Motion to pass: Sara
 - Second: Sandy
 - Motion passes
- We also need to approve 5 checks (Checks #3134 through #3138)
 - Motion to approve: Sandy
 - Second: Megan
 - Motion passes
- Proposed Budget for 2020-2021 School Year
 - Cash balance was \$30,063.69 as of August 1, 2021
 - Goal for giving campaign: \$35,000
 - Projected income of \$46,580 from fundraisers (ralphs, restaurant matching)
 - Projected Program Expenses: giving campaign, mini grants, read-a-thon, game night, dance competition, book fair, garden club, kindergarten t-shirts, sixth grade promotion, staff lunch, staff appreciation week, academic competitions (math club, science field day), imagination machine, back to school, Gr8tful year-round event donation.
 - Will there be expenses associated with Red Ribbon week?
 - What about adding another event? What about Stampede or World Festival? Could we put in a placeholder for another event (\$2500)?
 - Projected Operating Expenses: accounting/tax prep, bank charges, charitable & trust license, pay pal charges, membership insurance, council dues, office and other supplies, website expense
 - Other expenses: donation to Sycamore ridge
 - Total expense: \$39,675
 - Net would be ~\$37,000

- Does the cash balance forward include school gift? Yes, that includes the gift for school last year. Dr. LaRose deferred 2019-2020, then that was used (\$20k). 2020-2021 gift was deferred after waiting to see what happens with the outdoor furnishing. We were down to one fundraiser for last year, so we do not have as much as usual.
- We had \$40k on hand at the start of last year (2020-2021), and now we have \$30k on hand for 2021-2022. This means we spent an \$10k last year that we did not bring in.
- Motion to approve budget: David motions
- Second: Sara seconds
- Motion passes

School Request

Chelsea has requested assistance from the Sycamore Ridge PTA for two immediate needs and one wish list item:

1. Sycamore Staff CPR Training \$1650
 - a. In the past, PTA has funded CPR training that occurs for teachers. Many staff have CPR that has expired. It is not mandated, so teachers have to pay out of pocket. Also, many of the classes occur during the day which is not ideal. The school hires an instructor for a Wednesday afternoon after students leave. This is a maximum price. For basic reasons, it is helpful to have CPR trained staff. Also for field trips, it would be necessary. Could do a partial support of this and ask teachers to do the rest.
2. Additional musical instruments (Orff) to flesh out the music department. \$3100
 - a. Could use new instruments as many are damaged and all ages like using these.
3. Gaga Pit purchase/installation for upper grade outdoor activity \$5500
 - a. Everyone is impacted by the lack of playgrounds. Ashley Falls is getting a Gaga Pit. It is something that students are asking about. Would need a mat to go underneath to keep the students safe. It could go on the grass, but our community uses that space, so it isn't practical.

How quickly could these items be turned around? We do have a company identified for Gaga Pit. It would just depend on manufacturing and shipping.

Orff instrument vendor has also been identified, but need to find out about shipping time.

Is the previous \$20k available to use for these items and then we can gift more for outdoor furniture when ready?

Chelsea: yes, absolutely. We've spent some of the funds (\$10k) on outdoor tables, but they are back-ordered. Also, district has decided to spend some money on this, so we need to wait for a final price. This leaves us the other \$10k to spend on CPR, Gaga Pit and Orff. Prop MM

has spent over \$500k on outside equipment, re-slurry and pavement. Gaga Pit cannot be funded via Prop MM because it is a movable structure.

Motion to approve changing allocation of school funds from exclusively outdoor furniture to items discussed including CPR, Orff instruments and Gaga Pit: Sara

Second: David

Motion passes

Open questions from community:

Bhaswar Sarkar: He noticed there is no technology this year. He's concerned that if we don't do anything about this, the kids may be lagging and have to play catch up in middle school. Could there be a robotics club or something like that?

Chelsea: We've moved away from a tech lab because the school district is beyond that now. Our district is now a one to one tech device (ipad or chrome book) per student. Tech has moved from tech lab to inside the classroom as each student has a device now. Teachers are equipped to give kids access to all apps and tech as needed. Additionally, we have now an integration specialist who uses variety of technology to support learning through integrated experiences with her and inside the classroom. Students are now immersed in tech at an age appropriate level. This doesn't mean there isn't space for an additional club after school.

Sandy: my son is now at PTMS and did robotics after school at Sycamore Ridge, but it wasn't through PTA. We really are restricted by Covid restrictions right now and the inability for kids to mix. If there is an interest and restrictions lift, PTA could consider supporting a robotics club. Lunch clubs are another opportunity when things open up again.

Bhaswar: integration specialist could help, but learning python, java, etc. would be helpful. Still feel they will be behind in middle school if they have not been exposed to these languages and coding.

David: it seems like Bhaswar is more concerned about learning a computer language.

Bhaswar: emphasis on machine learning now and kids are getting into it. Primarily done in python. CC does machine learning.

Lou: it could be challenging to equitable for all grades. This is an issue with Math Club.

Speaker: Principal Chelsea Moore: update on Sycamore Ridge with

Q & A to follow.

Playground update: slated through prop MM to get new play structures. Started design process last year and it was supposed to be installed last summer, but parts were back ordered due to Covid. Progress is being made. Climbing feature on all play structures. Swings, music in Kinder. Black top was re-slurried and re-stripped to add new games and is safer. In the next few weeks, Kinder may be done.

Traffic update: traffic has been frustrating and difficult, especially compared to last year. Couple reasons: Cathedral has shifted some of their hours to be at the same time as us. Lights have not been re-programmed at Del Mar Heights and Old Carmel Valley Rd. This has been requested, but things move slowly. There are also more kids on campus. Ms. Moore has been in contact with SDPD about this and there has been a presence. She is hoping SDPD can help with re-programming lights. Please pass the message along that we need to be role models for our students. There has been lots of bad adult behavior. Parents are parking in red lanes, blocking parking lane, parents cutting each other off and swearing at each other. We know it is frustrating, but parents need to drive responsibly. Any help would be appreciated. Parents have wondered if PTA members can be around to help direct traffic. We have quite a bit of staff, but I'll think about this and approach Gregory if there is a need. May be more helpful to get direction from a school staff member vs. another parent.

Sandy: just asking because there were lots more staff around helping to direct traffic last year. Yes, there is a person out back gate and front driveway.

A bit more typical: so great to have all students back on campus together. Lovely to see families engaging with one another on back to school night. Could meet with room parents outside this morning which was great.

Joy at Sycamore Ridge: that hasn't left! Using manipulatives, creating, exploring, learning about ancient civilizations, collaborating, etc. Uses outdoor spaces well. Pride in their work, desire to share, routines in place. Small groups with teacher, presentations, back at the library.

Don't want kids to miss out on experiences while keeping them healthy and safe. We learned so much last year and we are relying on scientists to keep us safe. Continue to put those layers of safety in place: cohorts, hand washing, etc. We do expect there to be positive cases. If you need to know, you will know. We do a thorough contact tracing process. Have had one positive case this year. We notify those who need to know. Can always check district dashboard to see the numbers. Please remember we need to protect the identify of those who have been infected. Things will be a bit different this year. There was zero transmission last year, but healthy kids had to stay home. This year, protocols have changed a bit. If exposed/close contact at school, students can participate in modified quarantine and can choose to stay at home or come to school with testing requirements. If exposed outside of school, must follow regular quarantine. Health and Safety plan on district website if you have more questions. Also reach out to Chelsea whenever you have a question.

Principal's coffee: Tuesday September 21st @5pm in the MUR. Adults only with masks. Will be walking parents through what a day in the life of a Stallion looks like.

ELAC meeting after for English Language learners.

Lou: can you advertise the PTA at the coffee?

Sara: I've posted a link to the Newsletter from our website. If you're trying to reach kinder parents, I can send it out to them for one time.

Sandy: testing you mentioned – is that already available? Has there already been a waiver for this? Chelsea: different request will be sent out. Modified quarantine: does not allow ASP or sports/other after school activities, but does allow access to education.

Meeting close at 7:27pm

Megan Scanderbeg

September 14, 2021_____

Megan Scanderbeg, the Secretary