



SYCAMORE RIDGE PTA

PTA Meeting 9/14/2023

Attendance: Andrea Mann, Ana Pons, Sandy Tanaka, Indra Sena, Kuan-Bei Chen, Shiran Ferber, Shalini Priti, Gregory Reade, Caroline Bailey, Priya Merrill, Ryan Maher, Jill Maher, Neda Karimi, Kathy O'Neill, Lou Lu, Kate Kim, Megan Scanderbeg, Sara Lake, Dr. Patrick Hefflin, Dea Rivera, Bianca Plotkin, Ying Vujcic

President/Sara:

Welcome/Call to Order:

- Sara welcomed everyone to the meeting and called it to order at 8:15 AM.

Presentation by Dea Rivera, Sycamore Ridge Counselor:

- Dea Rivera provided information about the school counseling program at Sycamore Ridge and its connection to the Del Mar District.
- She discussed the ASCA model, emphasizing its role in fostering academic, career, and social/emotional development for student success in and outside of school.
- Dea highlighted the direct services offered, including group counseling, frustration tolerance, classroom guidance lessons, grade-level assemblies, and crisis-response services.
- She also mentioned indirect services aimed at promoting positive school dynamics through PTA involvement and school counselor assemblies.
- Dea elaborated on the Zones of Regulations, helping children identify triggers and improve frustration tolerance. She emphasized the importance of parents becoming attuned to their own emotions and connecting with children in the moment, using nonjudgmental, compassionate communication.
- Consistent language at both school and home was stressed for effective support.

Discussion about 2023-2024 Budget:

- It was noted that the PTA currently maintains a surplus of funds carried over from previous years. There is a strategic intent to allocate a portion of these surplus funds towards this year's programs, potentially surpassing the expected income. As a non-profit organization, it is encouraged to allocate the majority of collected funds toward its initiatives while maintaining a prudent financial reserve in the bank account to address unexpected expenses.

Treasurer's Report - Lou:

- Motion to approve Checks 3372-3382 was made and passed.
- The approval of the 23/24 Budget was presented and approved.
- The Treasurer's Report for August was presented, and a motion to approve it was made and passed.

Committee Reports:

Approve August Minutes (Sara):

- The minutes for the previous August meeting were reviewed and approved.

Approve Updated By-Laws (Priya/Sara):

- Changes to the by-laws were discussed, including increasing dues from \$30 to \$35 and changing meeting days from Tuesday to Thursday.
- A motion to approve the by-law changes was made and passed.

Update on Annual Giving Campaign (Sara):

- Sara provided an update on the Annual Giving Campaign.
- On Derby Wednesday (9/13), the current participation rate stands at 22%.
- The objective is to encourage maximum participation, regardless of the contribution amount, as it symbolizes a strong commitment to our school community.
- In previous years, participation has typically ranged between 46% and 50%.
- The campaign is scheduled to conclude during the first week of October, and assistance from Room Parents is needed to communicate with other parents and inspire greater participation.

Stallion Stampede Update (Kathy/Priya):

- The overall sentiment regarding Stallion Stampede was positive.
- Some feedback included concerns about the pizza stand's location, which made it difficult to hear and order due to its proximity to the music.

- The idea of displaying new spirit wear was well-received, with a suggestion to have wear available outside the entrance of the school for parents to see sizes.
- Lines were fast, with minimal waiting for tattoos and balloons.

General Update:

- The Math Club is currently in full swing, holding weekly online meetings in the post-COVID era, which are run by parents. Students have the opportunity to participate in various Noetic Learning Math Contests throughout the year.
- The Science Olympiad is making significant progress with an impressive turnout of 30 students. Notably, Sycamore Ridge placed in the top three in a couple of events last year, even without a full roster. The program is open to students in grades 4 through 6. To prepare for participation in Middle School, students are encouraged to gain valuable experience during their Elementary School years. This year, CCA students will provide coaching support.
- Grade Level Socials for September and October were discussed, with venue suggestions including parks, restaurants, and potlucks. Sara encouraged everyone to assist in organizing these events and kindly requested that event details be emailed to her for coordination.
- The Book Fair is scheduled for October 16-20, and volunteers are needed.
- The Drama Club is thriving with 40 students, all of whom have paid. Volunteers are actively participating.
- The STAR Reading program requires volunteers, including parents, grandparents, and neighbors, to assist students reading below their grade level in achieving grade-level proficiency. The program operates year-round, allowing volunteers to partner with the same students throughout the year. It offers exceptional flexibility in accommodating volunteer schedules.
- Room C5 has been officially designated as the PTA ROOM.

The meeting concluded with a reminder of the next meeting scheduled for **Thursday, October 12th, at 9:15 AM.**

Ana Pons

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