



# **SYCAMORE RIDGE PTA**

## **PTA Meeting 11/14/2023**

**Attendance:** Vivian Firestone, Megan Scanderbeg, Kathy O'Neill, Kate Kim, Sandy Tanaka, Sara Lake, Priya Merrill, Gregory Reade, Lou Lu, Ana Pons

### **President/Sara:**

#### **Welcome/Call to Order:**

- The meeting was called to order at 8:15 AM, and the attendees were welcome.

### **Communication between Vivian Firestone, Interim Principal, and PTA Members:**

#### **Interim Principal's Report:**

- Vivian Firestone, shared her background and role at Sycamore Ridge, filling in for Dr. Heflin.
- She expressed excitement about her role and shared her experience working in education.
- Acknowledged the lack of updates and the need to provide more frequent information from the District.
- Discussed plans for upcoming school gatherings and assemblies to enhance student engagement.
- Recognized Lesa House as a pivotal employee during this transitional period.

#### **PTA's Position and Challenges:**

- Members expressed support for Current Interim Leadership.
- PTA Members expressed concern about potential mixed messages, especially when there was a different signature.
- Expressed concerns about the impact of launching new initiatives and the importance of continuing with planned initiatives and avoiding a holding pattern.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- Checks numbering from 3393 to 3418 were motioned and approved.
- Updates on income and expenses for various events, including the Magic Show, were provided.
- Questions and clarifications were sought on restaurant nights, corporate matching, and the Spring Carnival income.
- Budget concerns for GlowDance were addressed, with specific worries about the \$3,500 cost. Reassurance was provided, emphasizing that it's a pilot year and the budget will be closely monitored.

### **Approval of October Minutes:**

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

## **Program Updates:**

### **Drama Club Update:**

- Discussion about Jennifer Brockman's move to Pacific Sky and Charlotte Oakman's interest in taking the chair position.
- Proposed to have next year's fall productions back-to-back at both Pacific Sky and Sycamore Ridge, sharing resources.
- Concerns were raised about practice time, overlapping auditions, and the possibility of sharing costumes and sets.
- Questions about Pacific Sky's budget for drama and the type of productions they plan to undertake.
- Commitment to continue discussions with Charlotte and secure Lex for the drama club.
- Debate on the merits of spring vs. fall productions, considering school breaks and extracurricular activities.
- Clarification that there are no plans for a second spring production, and it's not financially viable at the moment, and emphasis on avoiding burnout for both parents and volunteers involved in the drama club.

### **Star Reading Program:**

- Sandy discussed the evolution of the STAR program, shifting away from a formalized structure for more flexibility.

- Emphasized on supporting English language learners and adapting to specific student needs.
- Kate shared positive experiences with the program, emphasizing the students' enjoyment and focus on reading improvement.
- Sandy highlighted potential collaboration with the Westmont community for additional volunteers.
- The need for new books in the future and a plan to designate a budget for this purpose were highlighted.

#### **Magic Show Preparations:**

- Reservation of the MUR for the magic show on December 8th.
- Ticket sales update and plans for concessions during the event.
- A reminder of the disclaimer that kids must be accompanied by parents.
- Consideration of marking will call tickets for tracking purposes.

#### **Stallion Sprinters Update:**

- Positive feedback on the enthusiasm of kids participating in the program.
- Megan requested access to PE equipment for efficient setup before the start time.
- Mentioned other schools involving sixth graders in leadership roles.
- Concerns about logistics, especially related to tracking laps were raised.

#### **Book Fair Update and Future Plans:**

- Mention of breaking even but falling short of the \$6,000 threshold due to fewer books sent.
- It was noted that for future Book Fairs, advertising more students than actual enrollment might help secure an adequate supply of books.

#### **Spirit Wear Updates:**

- Some concerns were raised about delays in the delivery of Spirit Wear items.
- Sara clarified that the deadline was extended, which might have contributed to the delay.
- There were discussions about the possibility of reopening the Spirit Wear store in the spring and introducing options like beach totes or hats, providing more choices for both staff and students.

#### **Glowdance Planning Update:**

- Glowdance is scheduled for January 19 from 5:30 to 7:30.

- Planned in the MUR with additional activities in the library.
- Detailed plans for decorating the MUR with black wallpapers, glow tiles, and UV paint were discussed.
- Confirmed that the event is free, with pizza and drinks being the only items for sale.
- Discussed the potential use of the science room for eating.

**Discussion on Staff Appreciation:**

- Discussion on adopting staff members in addition to adopting a teacher for appreciation.
- Discussed the collection of funds for Steam Plus holiday gifts through class donations.
- Confirmed the use of Venmo as the preferred method for collecting funds for gift cards. Clarified the allocation of funds for gift cards and chocolates.

The meeting concluded with a reminder of the next meeting scheduled for **Thursday, December 14th, at 9:15 AM**

**Ana Pons**

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