



SYCAMORE RIDGE PTA

PTA Meeting 12/14/2023

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

President/Sara:

Welcome/Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 9:20 AM, and the attendees were welcome.

Vivian Firestone, Interim Principal Updates:

Principal Hiring Updates:

- Scheduled interviews are set to take place by the end of this week.
- The objective is to finalize the selection process ahead of the January 17th board meeting.
- A comprehensive transition plan will be implemented to ensure a seamless onboarding experience.
- The primary focus remains on identifying the ideal candidate who aligns with the position requirements.

General School Updates:

- A briefing was provided on the ongoing installation of a front door entry system.
- Members are encouraged to participate in testing the system on January 11th during the upcoming general association meeting.
- Notification was given regarding the rescheduled kindergarten informational meetings, now set for January 30th.

Financial Report:

- Approval of the November transaction report checks 3419 to 3420 and 3500 to 3512 was made and passed.
- Drama Club payments completed with a surplus of approximately \$1,000.
- Sara acknowledged the PTA Board for their responsible fund management.
- Discussion on the Sprinters fund; potential use for reactivating cards.

Committee Updates:

- Yearbook status was uncertain, awaiting information on the teacher in charge. An update on funds handling for the yearbook was requested.
- There was an issue with mobile ordering for Mendocino Farms, and there was a suggestion to include instructions in flyers.
- Confirmation for LEX for the next year; Charlotte Oakman chaired the committee.
- A mini-grant usage update was provided, with a reminder for teachers to spend allocated funds.
- The inadequate quality of the sound system in the MUR was brought up, and it was acknowledged that the district took steps to address and improve it. There was also consideration for a potential PTA gift to ensure the highest sound system quality.
- An update on the collective gift-giving initiative for teachers and staff during the holidays was shared. \$515 was collected from room parents for various staff members. It was clarified that this contribution was a one-time event for the holidays, not requiring additional contributions in the spring.

Program Updates:

Magic Show:

- Positive feedback on the magician's performance and the quality of the show.
- Mention of the possibility of not hosting the event every year to maintain its uniqueness.
- Discussion on the potential return of similar events in the future, and consideration for other entertaining events like Imagination Machine.
- Positive consideration for family-friendly events that resonate well with the community and differ from other events like the Glow Dance, which is tailored to Sycamore students only.
- Break-even achieved when factoring in free tickets distributed as part of membership.

Glow Dance

- Kate provided an update on Glow Dance preparations.
- The current expenses for the event amount to \$2,200 out of \$3,500. Aim to keep expenses under \$3,000.
- The discussion highlighted the need for both parent and student volunteers to support various aspects of the event.
- Set up time constraints were raised due to the upcoming school break and the Martin Luther King holiday.
- Decorating plans, including the use of black wallpapers, were discussed.
- Consideration for limiting lunchtime wall decorating to one or two grades per day.
- Emphasis on communicating with MUR schedule and designating specific areas for activities.
- The decision to focus on dancing activities, led by the DJ, was emphasized.
- Glow-in-the-dark hula hoops and swag items were discussed as incentives for participation.
- Concerns were raised about hanging black lights in the MUR due to the lack of suitable hanging points. Possible solutions, including Velcro or stands, were proposed. A site visit to assess the space was suggested.

Spring Carnival:

- Proposal to hold a meeting in January to gather ideas and suggestions for improving Carnival fundraising efforts.
- Consideration of introducing a leaderboard for Carnival games to encourage participation.
- Suggestion to create big raffle baskets and sell tickets instead of the traditional silent auction.
- Discussion on the decline in funds from silent auction and strategies to enhance fundraising.
- Acknowledgment of the need for more volunteers, particularly for managing games and activities during Carnival.
- Emphasis on the importance of volunteers not only suggesting ideas but actively participating in implementing them.
- Mention of a scheduled meeting with Westmont, a senior living community, to seek sponsorship for Carnival.

The meeting concluded at 10:15 am. The next PTA meeting is scheduled for **January 11th**.

Ana Pons

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