



# **SYCAMORE RIDGE General General PTA Meeting 1/11/2024**

**Attendance:** Megan Scanderbeg, Kathy O'Neill, Kate Kim, Sandy Tanaka, Kuan-Bei Chen, Sara Lake, Priya Merrill, Gregory Reade, Chung Lu, Ana Pons, Jennifer Hardy, Ping Kuo, Jill Maher, Lesa House, Vivian Firestone, Ryan Stanley

## **President/Sara:**

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

- The meeting was called to order at 8:15 AM, attendees introduced themselves, and Ryan Stanley, Assistant Superintendent HR, was introduced as a special guest.

## **Ryan Stanley and Vivian Firestone Updates:**

### **Principal Hiring Updates:**

- Ryan Stanley provided a comprehensive update on the principal hiring process:
  - The second week of December marked the initiation of the process.
  - Initial screening resulted in six candidates.
  - Subsequent interviews included top HR personnel and the superintendent.
  - Positive reference checks emphasized the new principal's passion for community engagement.
  - The candidate, currently under contract in another district, will hopefully relocate to SD and commence duties in early February.
  - The candidate's eagerness for a principal role and the previous assistant principal position as a stepping stone were highlighted.

- Concerns were raised about the mid-year transition.
- Support and transition plans for Brandon LoMonaco were discussed.
- Gratitude was expressed for detailed updates and collaboration between the district and parents.

#### **General School Updates by Vivian Firestone:**

- The kindergarten informational meeting is scheduled for the end of January.
- The front door system for enhanced security will start on January 16th.
- Gratitude expressed to the PTA for their contributions.

#### **Financial Report:**

- Drama club activities concluded with a profit of about \$2,000, staying within the \$20,000 budget.
- Corporate matching began in October, reaching \$7,000 against the \$8,000 goal.
- Candle fundraiser brought in \$6,750.
- Reminder for teachers to submit grants; each gets \$400.
- Acknowledged a healthy reserve fund, intentionally held until needs are clearer.
- Discussion about the Spring Carnival budget, including a generous donation from Joshua's.
- Approval for December Treasury report and checks 3513 to 3517.
- Approval for December minutes received.

#### **Program Updates:**

##### **Glow Dance Updates:**

- Dance preparations were discussed, including Scott Tanaca's assistance with lights.
- Concerns were raised about the potential impact of cold weather on outdoor pizza setup.
- Vivian proposed exploring alternative spaces like the science room or the library for concession.
- Discussed using the science room and potential weather-related challenges
- PTA expressed gratitude for Kate's hard work
- The meeting continued with detailed discussions on preparations, student involvement, and anticipated challenges.

### **Movie Night:**

- Positive feedback was received for the Trolls Band Together movie for movie night.
- Budget considerations included proposing complimentary popcorn for inclusivity.
- It was discussed whether to contact the concession provider for the event and if he should remain until the movie's end.
- It was considered starting the event earlier, around 4 pm.
- Addressed power needs for concessions and ensured facilities support.

### **Science Olympiad:**

- Last year, challenges were faced with a smaller team of 12 students out of a potential 15.
- Despite the hurdles, our team excelled in the events they participated in, outperforming some middle schools.
- This year, a full team of 15 students was formed, covering all 23 events and planning earlier.
- CCA students joined as coaches, benefitting from the experience gained.
- An invitational competition is taking place on February 10th, remotely, to prepare for the official competition on February 24th.
- It was communicated to Vivian that school representation would be appreciated; it was suggested that she, the new principal, or a teacher attend the event.
- Chelsea Moore, the previous principal, attended last year, and the students enjoyed her presence.
- Plans for a Science Olympiad assembly and participation in the school carnival were discussed to generate student interest.

### **Game Night:**

- Hawaiian-themed game night discussed.
- It was considered to align Hawaiian decorations with teacher appreciation.
- Discussed the need for volunteers and a Bingo caller for the event.

### **Committee Updates:**

#### **General Updates:**

- Sara and Ana's successful meeting with the older community was highlighted.
- Collaborative ideas, including a Valentine's Kindergarten performance at the community and monthly piano recitals.

- Vivian and the kindergarten teachers will explore logistics for involving students in Westmont community activities.
- Confirmed Ms. Cunningham is taking over the yearbook.
- Highlighted the substantial workload and extended an offer for the PTA to collaborate by sharing pictures to facilitate the process.

**PTA Leadership Succession:**

- Discussed the need for a PTA board and filling certain positions.
- Discussed the limit in bylaws for staying in a position for more than two years and its potential risks.
- Mentioned the possibility of co-presidency and willingness to help with the treasurer position.
- Addressed the need to find a new president and treasurer.
- Discussed the recommendation of moving people already in seats.
- Discussed the timeline for drafts and the need for one-on-one conversations to recruit new board members.

The meeting concluded at 9:15 am. The next PTA meeting is scheduled for **February 8th**.

**Ana Pons**

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