



SYCAMORE RIDGE

PTA Meeting 3/14/2024

Attendance: Dr. Holly McClurg, Brandon LoMonaco, Megan Scanderbeg, Kathy O'Neill, Kate Kim, Sandy Tanaka, Kuan-Bei Chen, Sara Lake, Priya Merrill, Gregory Reade, Chung Lu, Ana Pons

President/Sara:

Welcome/Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 9:15 AM. Participants introduced themselves to one another.

Dr. Holly McClurg, District Del Marc Announcements:

Del Mar District General Updates:

- Emphasized the importance of stepping out of comfort zones to adapt to a changing world and support students.
- Highlighted the upcoming 2028 IA program focusing on teaching, learning, and culture enhancement through the use of AI.
- Brandon emphasized the importance of a student-centered mindset, energy, and connections within the educational environment.
- Sara discussed ways in which the PTA can uphold these values and provide support to staff, school, and teachers.

Principal Brandon LoMonaco Presentation:

Brandon delivered a presentation covering various topics:

- A warm welcome to all attendees.
- Emphasis on relationship building within the school community.

- Recognition of the care, attention to detail, and community events that contribute to the school's holistic environment.
- Jogathon has been a huge success and achieved so far to raise \$68,000.
- Initiatives to support the environment, such as implementing a new lunch system and student-led recycling efforts.
- Question about Sprinters and the need to add a table out there so that they don't need to pull our cart all the time.
- Concerns raised by parents regarding campus closure during summer camps.

Financial Report:

- Approval was sought and granted for the following:
 - Checks 3534 to 3543.
 - February meeting minutes.
 - February budget, including mini-grants and Glow Night expenditures.
- Discussion regarding a mini-grant for the school nurse to purchase an ice machine from Amazon.

General Committee Updates:

- Feedback on the cyber safety presentation was provided, highlighting its importance and relevance.
- Mention of plans to include information on AI in future District presentations.
- Concerns were raised regarding online safety measures at home, including challenges with parental controls on devices.
- Comments on Brandon's continuity within the district.
- Decision made by the PTA to assist with field trips but not cover their costs going forward.

Program Updates:

Parents Night Out:

- The Parents Night Out event for the highest-level donors is scheduled for Friday, April 12th.
- The event timing discrepancy between 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM and 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM was discussed, with considerations for parents dropping off their children.
- Discussion regarding extending the event duration for easier drop-offs.
- Past Parents Night Out activities included playground time, pizza, and movie watching.

- Issues with pizza options being overlooked and attempts to accommodate parental preferences were discussed.
- Agreement to communicate with affected parents and explore alternative food options.

Family Game Night:

- Plans for Family Game Night, including bingo calling responsibilities and logistics for snacks and prizes.
- Coordination with a parent volunteer for a backdrop for event photos.
- Confirmation of volunteers for event setup and a reminder to check the newsletter for updates.
- Logistics for bingo calling setup and use of technology for displaying called numbers.
- Coordination with sound system and TV setup for bingo event.

STAR Reading and Collaboration with Westmont Senior living:

- The seniors have been actively participating in reading sessions with students, which has been beneficial.
- There's a need for further discussion on how to improve the program for the upcoming year.
- Timing constraints have been recognized, requiring sessions to be conducted during one class period.
- The physical setup has been challenged due to the seniors' needs, prompting the relocation of sessions to the library.
- Additional activities involving seniors, such as giving Valentines and playing bingo, have been successful.
- Plans for future activities include monthly walks.
- A budget line item will be created for the upcoming year to allocate funds for the program.
- The program has attracted more volunteers, indicating its success and potential for growth.

World Festival Updates:

- The World Festival is scheduled for April 17th.
- Discussion on gathering forms from people interested in participating in country boards.
- Confirmation of performers for the festival, including a flamenco dancer and taiko drummers.
- There are plans for a cultural dress fashion show during the event, with an invitation for both adults and children to participate.

- Consideration of organizing the fashion show in groups to prevent it from becoming too lengthy.

Fundraising for Spring Carnival:

- Plans to raise \$20,000 for a digital marquee for the Spring Carnival.
- Announcement of plans to collect business sponsors through classroom efforts.
- Decision to organize raffle baskets for the carnival, with a focus on collecting diverse items.
- Formation of a committee to coordinate the creation of raffle baskets.
- Consideration of using a sign-up genius for collecting items for specific themed baskets.
- Clarification on the separation of raffle tickets and carnival tickets, with raffle tickets priced at \$5 each.

PTA Board Slate:

- Discussion on potential changes to board roles and responsibilities.
- Clarification on the role of the EVP (Executive Vice President) and the need for someone to fill the position.
- Mention of potential candidates for treasurer and EVP roles.
- Confirmation of roles in organizing fundraising campaigns and events.

The meeting concluded at 10:35 a.m. The next PTA is the General Meeting Association and is scheduled for April 11th at 8:15 a.m.

Ana Pons

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