



SYCAMORE RIDGE

General PTA Meeting 9/12/2024

Attendance: Lara Gordon, Tami Katz, Todd Howard, Robert Lake, Nick Mariuz, Stanley Moreau, Scott Bailey, Etkar Arneja, Janet Anderson, Charlotte Oakman, Kuan-Bei Chen, Jennifer Hardy, Megan Scanderbeg, Bianca Plotkin, Kathy O'Neill, Kate Kim, Sandy Tanaka, Sara Lake, Priya Merrill, Chung Lu, Ana Pons, Brandon LaMonaco, Meg Money

Location: Sycamore Elementary School

Conflict of Interest & Antitrust Avoidance Affirmation: All attendees affirmed that they are not engaging in any conflicts of interest or activities violating antitrust regulations.

President/Sara:

Welcome/Call to Order:

- Sara called the meeting to order at 8:15 AM and welcomed all attendees to the first meeting after school started.

Approval of Transactions and Meeting Minutes

- July Transactions: Approved.
- July Meeting Minutes: Approved.
- August Transactions: Only transactions are to be approved. No meeting minutes were taken.
- Check Numbers Approved: #3585 to #3595.

Budget Review:

Introduction and Annual Giving Campaign Goals

- Introduction of the campaign and outline of its objectives.
- Discussion on how the funds raised will be allocated.

Current Financial Status:

- Surplus of \$80,000 due to unspent funds during COVID.
- Largest fundraising sources include the Annual Giving Campaign and Spring Carnival, which are expected to raise \$94,000 this year.
 - Participation Goal:
 - Current: 20% participation.
 - Last year: 46%.
 - Goal: To exceed 50% participation with an incentive-driven Derby competition between grade levels.

Proposed Budget Highlights:

- Noted that the surplus funds from COVID will go towards additional expenses such as the Marquee and MUR upgrades.
- Gifts to the school: \$28,000 for digital marquee and \$20,000 for MUR upgrades
- Staff camaraderie projects include a new laminating machine, increasing the staff support budget.

Approved motion to approve the proposed budget.**General Updates****School Play - "The Wizard of Oz"**

- The grades participating are fourth to sixth graders.
- Auditions have been completed, the cast is set, and rehearsals are underway.
- Performance Dates: November 15th to 17th.
- Ticket sales will begin soon.
- An email will go out in October to recruit for the tech crew (fourth to sixth graders).
 - Tech crew participation is free.
 - They will help with lighting, microphones, and other technical aspects.
- New sound system installation is planned before the show.

Upcoming Movie Night

- The originally scheduled movie conflicts with STEAM night.
- Voted on whether the movie should be held indoors or outdoors: Outdoor venue wins.
- Date: Friday night in the Fall, time TBD.

Reflections Art Contest - 'Embracing Imperfections'

- A brief discussion on fostering an inclusive atmosphere by encouraging students to embrace imperfections.
- Still looking for a committee chair to lead this initiative.

PTA Liaison Update

- New Position: PTA Liaison to bridge communication between the PTA and the teaching staff.
- Appointed Liaison: Meg Money.
 - Meg will attend PTA and school meetings to ensure alignment between PTA activities and teacher needs.

Mr. Lo Monaco's Updates:

General School Updates

- A successful kick-off event with the district was held at Pacific Sky with guest speaker Christian Jackson Focused on AI integration in classrooms and offered teacher breakout sessions on topics like CGI math and flexible learning spaces.
- Champ, the mascot, was highlighted as a positive influence, especially for non-English-speaking students, helping ease first-day jitters.
- The First Day of School Assembly focused on expectations held with students rotating through different areas of the school to learn about behavior norms in specific spaces.
- Back-to-School Night was a successful event where parents learned about classroom expectations and partnered with teachers.

TKEI Program

- The District launched a Transitional Kindergarten Early Intervention (TKEI) program for qualifying four-year-olds, focused on early intervention for students from various parts of the district.
- The program is socioeconomically based and includes 17 students.

Student Collaboration

- Emphasis on interactive and collaborative classroom environments rather than traditional 45-minute lecture formats.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

- The district has introduced Jessica Cole as the new school counselor. She has been actively involved in supporting students with SEL.
- Initiatives include class lessons on SEL, "Lunch Bunch" groups, and small group sessions for students needing additional emotional support.
- Students can voluntarily participate in Lunch Bunch to interact with peers and the counselor in a safe, supportive environment.

Portrait of a Learner Initiative

- The teacher committee focuses on adaptability and incorporating life skills to prepare students for real-world situations.

Student Leadership and Sense of Belonging

- Programs designed to prepare students for middle school:
- Peace patrol, IT video announcements, green team, positive student recognition.
- Increased interactions between upper and lower grades to foster leadership.

IT Video Announcements

- Announcements will be recorded and made available through a link that teachers can access.
- Families who donate at a certain level will have their students participate in recordings.

Green Team & Positive Student Recognition

- Students will be recognized for positive behavior.
- Discussion of a potential new system for recognition, possibly involving the school's mascot.

The meeting concluded at 9:30 a.m. The next PTA Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 10 at 9:15 am at Sycamore Ridge.

Ana Pons

X

