

# **Orange Grove General FFO Meeting Minutes**

## **Thursday, October 26, 2017**

Present: Gina Mehmert, Mark Rubin-Toles, Jessica Brandt, Galena Robinson, Amy Bholá, Melinda McNeilus, Blythe Edmondson, Anne Gruber, Becky Swift, Michelle Ijams, Anthony Maggi, Melissa Dean, Leslie Bickell, Christeen Bates, Tanya Martin, Shirley Parks, Susan Proebsting, Bekki Harper, Ray Nunez, Hapie Denfeld, Nancy Loose, Bianca Rowley, Brenda Harrington,

Meeting called to order by President Gina Mehmert at 8:35am.

### **Principal's Update - Mark Rubin-Toles**

- Report cards- report cards are now available from parent vue. They have been revised this year and are a lot easier to read. There's an overall grade and then grades based on district standards. The overall grade shows how the teacher weighs the assignments. Standard grades just measure each assignment equally. Each of these is meant to give info on how your child is doing. Pay attention to the overall grade. Standard grades are about individual skills.
- Math Semester Grading - At the middle school we operate on a quarter system. Most classes follow this calendar. This year math teachers at both Esperero and Orange Grove will extend their grading so it keeps moving through for the entire semester. This matches the high school math grading. It fits with the way the math teachers grade and score work. They've created spiral assessments. Skills kids learned are assessed in each quarter. If the first quarter skills aren't mastered, those grades won't be erased at the beginning of the next quarter. The grade will show that those skills need work. If the skill is mastered by the end of the second quarter, the first quarter grade for that skill can be changed to reflect the mastery of the skill. Teachers have de-weighted practice work; thus the grades are more reflective of skill mastery.
- OG Report Card - Orange Grove scored an "A" from the state. It is a testament to teachers, students, and parents. This is a single measure. This is not the most important measure of our school. Mark feels the teachers have a better measure of how our students are doing. We value the knowledge our teachers have of our kids, through multiple assessments. But this is one good marker of our school health. The State of AZ wants to hold schools accountable and measure their worth, and give parents info to use when choosing schools. The old system penalized schools that had many kids on free and reduced lunch. The state has tried to create a model that is more complex, but is more fair. The state has already back tracked on this model. These are just preliminary scores, many schools are disputing results. The stability proficiency gives weight to kids that have been in the district since Kindergarten. This helps schools that have a lot of mobility among students. It also compares our kids to other kids who scored the same last year, and comparing those two groups to see how they did this year. Our students have a higher growth percentile, which means they are scoring higher than their peers who scored the same last year. The office has an explanatory book; if you would like more explanation please ask in the office.

To thank teachers we are going to have notes that students can write, the FFO will host a staff appreciation lunch on Nov. 17. Mark's primary goal as principal is to make this a place where good teachers want to stay and work.

### **Budget Report - Becky Swift**

- We are half way to our dine out goal.
- The biggest expenditures were made at the beginning of the year.
- Escrip, Basha's, Amazon Smile are community partners. Please take advantage of these deals. Go to Amazon Smile and designate OG FFO.
- Slightly under on PE uniform sales, but sales may still trickle in.
- 8th grade promotion fees are low. Please don't wait to pay those fee,. \$10/student. Will start a big push for this after winter break.
- Some grants have been approved, but checks are not written yet. 8 more teacher reimbursement requests submitted. We want to get all the money out to the teachers.

### **General Business**

- The Minutes - Bianca moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting; Galena seconded. Motion passed.
- Welcome to Amy Bhola from the governing board. Since Amy is also an OG parent she is a member of the FFO.

#### **• Panther Pride - Blythe Edmondson**

Email blast coming out soon. At almost \$13,000, need to be at \$18000. 16% participation, would like 100%. Imagine where we would be with 50% participation? Every bit helps and counts. Our direct giving campaign is the bulk of our budget. Please consider participating. You can do it through in touch; do it while you're re-filling our child's lunch card. Or visit the OG FFO website, here is the link <https://squareup.com/store/ogms-banking> . It's a tax deductible contribution.

#### **• Grants - Anne Gruber**

Irene McHugh, Library. Wants to purchase 6 games for the library, not to exceed \$100 with tax. Bianca moved we approve this grant, Mary Ann seconded. Motion passed.

- **Dine Out** - Chill Out at Frost this Friday 3-6:30, only La Encantada location. Must take a flyer. 25% of revenue will be donated. Kudos to Michelle for organizing this. One of the owners is an OG graduate.

#### **• Book Fair - Christeen Bates and Tanya Martin**

The kids really enjoyed it, received good feed back, and made over \$400 more than last fall book fair. A 50% increase is huge! Online sales weren't as successful as we hoped, but should still do it next time. Pass through money because we use scholastic dollars for magazines, etc. Thinking about giving the teachers a certificate for the spring fair, to come off the profits. Thanks for all of the volunteer help, will need more next time. The next fair will be the week of spring student led conferences.

- **Lunch Duty** - <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c48aba72aa64-ogms1>

This is a super important activity; we have 10% more kids. Please consider signing up for a shift.

- **Staff Appreciation - Cindee Reynolds**

Last one was Eege's during Fall Conferences. Next one is Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> and will be soup luncheon. Please see Cindee Reynolds if you want to volunteer to bring in a family favorite recipe.

- **Legislative - Amanda Saffer**

2017 Arizona Legislative / Governmental Activity

Board members shared information regarding the State Board of Education's posting of 2016-2017 A-F letter grades for schools, including the new information that the letter grades were considered preliminary. The State Board of Education will organize a new Technical Advisory Committee to review data, and field validation will occur to solicit feedback from school officials and the public. More info can be found at: <http://azsba.org/asba-connect-10-11-17/#a-f>

- **SAC holiday project - Amy Bhola**

Courtney Hinkle will be taking over for Amy Bhola next year. All students are members of the student action committee. Two service projects a year. The winter service project is done in conjunction with student council. They chose Youth on Their Own. There will be a drive for items that will help those students. The sign up will come out the week after thanksgiving. All students can come and help organize items.

- **Box Tops** has transitioned to Student Council as a fundraiser under the guidance of their SC Advisor, Dawn Willman.

- **Community Schools - Mary Grodman**

Second week of second quarter. Athletic calendar will be up soon. Many basketball and soccer participants. Introduced new classes this quarter like crafting, and SARSEF projects to present at the spring science fair. More STEAM programs in after school programming. Teachers are interested in doing these things that they can't fit in the school day. Registration is December 11th for 3rd quarter. Will offer girls basketball, boys soccer, and wrestling. We just signed up to get a new registration program. Hoping to get the program up and running for 3rd quarter registration. Also going to be having a new logo and look to community schools. High school for credit summer dates were released yesterday May 29-July 6, registration begins February 19. Working on winter break activities, some kind of outdoor adventuring, in 3rd quarter brochure. Please order a yearbook by December 22nd through in-touch. You can look at purchase history in in-touch to see if you have ordered a yearbook.

- **Foundation - Melinda McNeilus**

The foundations goal is to attract and retain quality teachers for our school. Induction program for new teachers, and a program for teachers who have been here 3 years plus. 230 attendees, \$12,000 raised from Tapas for Teachers. Why should you support the foundation? We have 124 teachers that have been here 3 years or less. They are affected by this induction program. The first 3 years is very important for retaining good teachers. Teachers that have been here over 3 years are more knowledgeable and better teachers. Would like 100% participation, we have over 3000 families in the district. Would love everyone to give \$1/day, \$365 this year. Use the foundation website, it is really easy. Will debit your account \$30 every month. A free education isn't really free. Teacher of the Year nominations open November 1. The teachers will get a copy of your nomination and it feels good. Colleagues, parents, students can nominate.

- **District reports - Galena Robinson**

The district FFO meeting went over the state school grading system, which Mark already described.

- **Other news**

- Thank you for supporting our Book Fair
- Save the date - Color Run 2018 will be held on March 2.
- **Shoplifting issue at Aj's** - Manager was very kind to give us a heads up to alert us to this problem. Will now engage the sheriff. Chat with your kids about the accomplice laws for shoplifting, which means even kids not taking items will be arrested if their friends are. If you happen to be at AJ's and see kids acting inappropriately please consider intervening. Often an adult presence is enough. Some kids aren't ready for this kind of freedom and need to be supervised. Maybe the parents can rotate to supervise a group of friends at La Encantada. Similar problems at the CVS.

Can the teen court speaker give a presentation to the kids? \*Prior to the FFO meeting Kate Spaulding from Pima County Teen Court gave a presentation.\* If you think that this presentation is suitable for the kids, let us know. We are looking for internet safety demonstrations for kids. **Panther Pride donations support these presentations!**

- A reminder that dogs are not allowed on campus - this includes the school fields and this includes after-school hours and weekends. Kids are coming in on Mondays covered in dog poop after PE. There is dog to dog transmission of pneumonia in poop, and dog to child transmissions of bacteria. Do not let your dog on campus! Have a kind conversation with those dog owners please if you see them. And it's illegal. Fines being issued. Maybe need more signs.
- Reminder of our ongoing fundraisers - Fry's, AJ's and BoxTops
- Please stay in touch - and please share our Facebook posts.  
<http://ogmspanthers.blogspot.com/>  
<http://orangegroveffo.com/>  
Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ogmsffo/>

- **Upcoming Events**

Chill Out at Frost, La Encantada - 3-6:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 27  
Staff Appreciation - Nov. 17 soup lunch  
Color Run 2018 - March 2

**Next FFO Meeting: Thursday, November 30, at 8:30 a.m.**

**Parent meeting preceding FFO for 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:42 am.**