

# **Orange Grove General FFO Meeting Minutes**

## **Thursday, January 25, 2018**

Present: Courtney Hinkle, Susan Proebsting, Becky Swift, Blythe Edmondson, Michele Thompson, Carole Siegler, Amanda Saffer, Leslie Beckett, Melissa Dean, Christeen Bates, Marianne Felt, Alfonso Matia, Nancy Loose, Joseph Perotti, Kate Spaulding, Michelle Ijams, Gina Mehmert, Monisha Patel, Mark Rubin-Toles, Jessica Brandt.

Meeting called to order by President Gina Mehmert at 8:49 am.

Special welcome to Governing Board Member Carole Siegler.

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

- Cultural luncheon was yesterday. Really proud to have been a part of the cultural expression that happened.
- Really busy week coming up. February 6th cyber safety presentation in the evening by the State Attorney General's Dept.
- February 7th district choir concert.
- Earlier this week the choir, jazz band, and color guard from the HS came here and gave presentations.
- February 8th- 8th graders will go to the high school. The permission slips will come home next week. Don't need their back packs. Do need a lunch or money on their lunch card, or cash. It's a fantastic experience.
- February 8th the 5th graders will be coming here.
- March 16 the student council is planning a dance and carnival. The carnival is for kids who might not be comfortable dancing.
- AZ Merit and AIMS testing starts right after spring break. As you are planning trips and appointments please keep the morning time open for the three weeks after spring break for testing. Give them a good nights sleep and a healthy breakfast to keep their brain fed for the testing.
- Another 8th grade parent breakfast is planned to talk about promotion prior to the March FFO meeting.
- Another assembly this Friday for the cultural luncheon performances, and to recognize athletes.

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

- More than halfway through the year.
- We are not quite where we thought we would be on the revenue side. PE Uniforms will not make the budget. Color Run income has not come in yet, to be discussed.
- On expenditures side we have paid some grants, book binding grant is coming. No big expenses.

### **General Business**

- Monisha Patel moved to approve the minutes, Amanda Saffer seconded. Minutes approved.

- **Panther Pride - Blythe Edmondson**

We have done really well with Panther Pride this year. Budgeted for \$18,000, and are at \$14000. However, the Executive FFO is recommending the goal be raised to \$22,000. Please think of friends who haven't given yet and consider making an extra donation if you can. We will have to cut things like grants or band support if we can't raise this money. Emails will be going out, letters will be going out. A thermometer type sign will be posted out front to monitor our progress. Gina mentioned that Panther Pride is in place of other fundraisers like selling wrapping paper or other things. It is our number one source of income. Blythe Edmondson moved we increase the budget to \$22000, Michelle Thompson seconded. Motion passed.

- **Grants - Anne Gruber**

No new grants to vote on yet, but the book binding grant is coming soon.

- **Color Run - Gina Mehmert**

Discussed this quite a bit at our last EFFF meeting. Has been held for the last 2 years with a lot of participation amongst 8th graders and 7th graders this year. We are noticing a drop in enthusiasm among these students, and a lack of parent volunteers. The event has a \$2000 cost, which we are concerned about. Also we lost our lead sponsor for this year. The Executive Board voted to recommend that we cancel the color run this year. Needs to be voted on here because it is a line item budget. Would plan to run it next year, and have two new grades of students who haven't experienced it. Hopefully a lot more student excitement about it, which would generate more parent excitement to volunteer. Discussion followed about the event being attractive to 5th grade students coming to OG, the recommendation to skip years by the national Color Run organization, the benefit of following the chair person's recommendation, and the possibility of a new chair next year. Other suggestions include running it in the fall when students are more enthusiastic, or dovetailing the color run with the student council dance and carnival. The Executive FFO has discussed other sponsorship opportunities that we can start this year, but we won't count them as revenue for this year. Hopefully will create more revenue streams for the future with spirit wear, directories, etc. Kate Spaulding made a motion to cancel the color run for this year, Blythe Edmondson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Dine Out - Michelle Thompson**

February 12 will be the next dine out at Sauce at Ina and Oracle. Please share this info on Facebook with your friends. It lasts all day from 11am- 9pm and no flier is needed. Would like to repeat Chipotle in May because it was so successful. Also looking for a March location. Papa John's was suggested as a dine out location.

- **Book Fair - Christeen Bates and Tonya Martin**

Spring Book Fair scheduled for March 12-16. Theme is Paws for Books. There will be a teacher preview the Friday before to make a wish list and use a \$10 gift certificate. Adding a family day on Thursday the 15th from 11-3; will serve eegee's and hope to draw more people in during conferences. Sign-up genius going out for volunteers. Librarian has the extra purchases from the fall fair displayed for us.

- **Legislative - Amanda Saffer**

The state is now keeping pace with inflation funding and more money is being committed to meet student enrollment growth, as well as making permanent and

inflation-protecting the 1.06 percent increase in teacher pay. In addition, a plan to restore some of the long-standing capital formula cuts is now being openly discussed.

Arizona schools currently have 5,371 classrooms without a qualified teacher. We currently pay our professional teaching staff less on average than 49 other states, and teachers are leaving to go work in other states.

- **Student Council Carnival and Dance**

Now that color run is cancelled we will be able to offer volunteers for this event on March 16th.

- **New Treasurer Needed**

Becky Swift and her family are moving to Australia at the end of the school year. We need someone now to shadow Becky for the rest of the year, and then start as the treasurer at the beginning of the summer. Please consider this opportunity yourself or ask someone who you think may be interested and speak with Gina.

- **8th Grade Promotion**

Michelle Ijams is the chair of the dance. Debra Berk will be the cookie reception chair. Still need a chair for the venue decoration. This is a pay it forward activity; 8th grade parents are not allowed to work on these activities. So we need 6th and 7th grade parents to volunteer.

- **Community Schools**

Representative not here today. Gina discussed the summer health and PE option for future 9th grade students, registration opening in early February. There is a cost for this class.

- **Foundation - Melinda McNeilus**

A huge thanks to all the parents and students who nominated teachers for our Teacher of the Year award! We had a tremendous response and a record number of nominations. Thank you for your time in doing this. The nominations are given to the teachers and it is a treasure for them to hear the impact they are making.

The Teacher of the Year (TOY) event will be on April 22nd at Westward Look. TOYs will be announced a week from Friday. We raised the award amount to \$2000 for Teacher of the Year and \$500 for Distinguished Educator.

We raised about \$36,000 in December and are 1/2 way to our annual goal. Thank you to all our donors and business partners!

- **District reports - Gina Mehmert**

The last district meeting was in December, so some of this information is dated. Spring break of 2019 has been changed to the last week of March. Open enrollment was ahead about 200 students overall, probably higher now. That is good news. Strings program and Mandarin coming to OG next year. District directories are in the office today. Will be giving them to the students today or tomorrow.

- **Reminder of our ongoing fundraisers**

Amazon Smile, Fry's, AJ's, Box Tops competition is still going on to win an eegee's party. Student council has taken over box tops as a revenue stream to make up for loss of revenue in planner sales.

- **Lunch duty**

Please click on the link and sign up. It really helps the teachers and staff to have extra supervision, and it is fun to keep an eye on your kiddo.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c48aba72aa64-ogms3>

- **Please stay in touch** - and please share our Facebook posts

<http://orangegroveffo.com/>

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ogmsffo/>

### **Upcoming Events**

- February 6th 6:30 pm Cyber Safety presentation by the Office of the Attorney General, for parents and students. Will be held at OG, not sure which room yet.
- Falcon Fly-In February 8th
- Panther Prideland visits for 5th graders February 8th
- February 14 Parent Open House for incoming 6th graders, for parents only.
- Staff appreciation breakfast on Valentine's morning. Please reach out to Cindee Reynolds with donations of food or time.

**Next FFO Meeting: Tuesday, February 13, at 8:30 a.m.**

**Parent meeting preceding FFO at 7:45 - new lock down procedures.**

**Blythe Edmondson moved we adjourn the meeting, Amanda Saffer seconded.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:33.**