

Orange Grove General FFO Meeting

Thursday, March 22, 2018

8:30 am

President Gina Mehmert called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Present: Becky Swift, Michele Thompson, Kyra Holtzman, Michelle Ijams, Courtney Hinkle, Heather Blakely, Eileen Jackson, Jessica Curley, Roula Ishak, Nancy Loose, Blythe Edmondson, Anju Patel, Julia Tucker, Anne Gruber, Bart Pemberton, Melinda McNeilus, Christeen Bates, Amy Bhola, Gina Mehmert, Mark Rubin-Toles, Jessica Brandt.

Special welcome to Governing Board President Amy Bhola, and Governing Board member Eileen Jackson.

Principals Report - Mark Rubin-Toles

- OG has reasons to celebrate!
- Student walk out last week was phenomenal. Completely organized by the students. Some students marched for gun control, and some for gun rights. Very respectful of other opinions. A few pranksters, but overall very respectful. All of the students converged in the grass at the conclusion and paid tribute to the 17 victims of the Parkland shooting. All of the students knelt in the grass for a moment of silence. We should be proud of our kids. The Tucson Weekly wrote a story about the event, and the AZ Daily Star took pictures. This took some serious organizing on the part of student leaders.
- Two students were honored at the Tucson Festival of Books. They received awards for a poem and a short story.
- The math counts team won the regional competition for the first time. The team will go to the state competition this weekend. We beat the Gregory School team which was headed by a former OG teacher.
- Spring Break is coming up, as well as promotion.
- SLC's were well attended by parents.
- AZ Merit testing is coming. The Tuesday after spring break testing will commence. Every morning for the next two weeks students will be testing. We have an extended time period for testing this year. Students are given the entire day to finish if they need it. We encourage students to take the time they need. Please don't pull kids out on the mornings of those test days. It is required to test students; it's not optional. Make sure your students are sleeping adequately during test days. Studies show a drop in IQ of 10 points with sleep deprivation. Encourage exercise in the afternoons, and provide a good breakfast with protein. They don't need snacks, but can bring hard candy. Mint especially helps during testing; no gum allowed. No late start that first week back from spring break.

Budget Report - Becky Swift

- We are behind where we thought we'd be in fundraising. Sauce dine out raised \$230, but not where we hoped we'd be.
- Need to collect more 8th grade promotion fees.
- A couple more dine outs will help.

- Teacher reimbursements are still trickling in. Hopefully they will submit those receipts soon.
- We are also looking for a Treasurer. Becky will be leaving at the end of the school year.
- We will be dipping in to our reserves to get us through this year. Will not cut teacher reimbursements or grants. Next year we will need to rebuild those reserves. Hosting the color run next year should bring in additional funds. We'll also try a business directory.

Grants -None

General Business

- Blythe Edmondson moved we approve the minutes from the last meeting. Becky Swift seconded. The minutes were approved.
- **Panther Pride** - Blythe Edmondson- still need to raise money. Currently have collected around \$16,000. Will put a white board outside showing our progress. It is a charitable donation, you can deduct from next year's taxes. Discussion about when to ask for donations. Recommended that we ask right before an event.
- **Dine Outs** - Michelle Thompson - Papa John's dine out is tomorrow, March 23. 20% of all proceeds from every sale, you don't even have to mention OG. They will deliver to OGMS families and expand their area for this night. Lunch for work, carry out for dinner. Please spread the word. May 1st dine out at Chipotle. Thanks to Michelle for heading this committee.
- **Book Fair** - Christeen Bates - The spring book fair raised \$917 in scholastic dollars. The teachers seemed very appreciative of their gift certificates.
- **Staff Appreciation** - was held last Thursday, offering eegee's sandwiches that the teachers were able to order. Very successful. Makes teachers feel special and cared for.
- **Legislative Update** - there are so many bills coming forward, waiting to see what sticks. Prop 301 is a budget source that pays for salaries. It expires in 2021. There is a bipartisan effort to extend that funding at least a few years. Visit the state legislative website "Request to speak" to register your support for an issue being debated in committee.
- **SAC** - Amy Bhola and Courtney Hinkle - sandwich making for Casa Maria food kitchen, who gives 2000 free meals a day. Need a few parents at 2pm on April 13th to supervise the kids. We'll collect the sandwich supplies the week after spring break.
- **8th Grade Promotion** - Michelle Ijams - top secret dance theme. A lot of volunteers helping, looking for donations of water and packaged snacks from grocery retailers. If you would like to help please contact Gina.
- **Education Chair** for the FFO, to organize the parent education events that we host. April 24th Kate Spaulding will be presenting on juvenile law. Middle school kids are welcome to attend, not appropriate for young kids. There is a spike in criminal activity among teens in the summer.
- **PE Uniforms** - Expanding our uniform range to get new and different items. We still need a uniform chair, this person will shadow Monisha Patel starting now and through next year, and will take over for 2019-2020.
- **Community Schools** - Q4 activities are happening now. Sign up for spring break activities for middle schoolers. High School PE/health summer school is registering now.

- **Foundation** - Melinda McNeilus - The Foundation's goal is to raise supplemental funds to attract and retain quality teachers. Teacher of the Year celebration April 22 at Westward Look. It's a morning event. Buy your tickets on the foundation website. The Teachers of the Year are Kirsten Fulgham and Nicole Prickett. The Distinguished Educators include Tiffany Wiley, McKenzie DeCoite, and Patricia Moore. Melinda gave out sponsorship sheets to take out an ad in the program, as a way to write special messages to the winners. The Foundation gave \$2000 to the teacher of the year, \$500 to the distinguished educators. Please make a donation to the foundation, it goes to every teacher and will affect your kids. Go online and register for the \$1 a day program that will charge your card monthly until \$365. Students can volunteer for the teacher of the year event, contact Melinda. The foundation board is looking for new members, meetings start in June. A third of OG teachers were nominated for TOY. Many more nominations this year than any other year.
- **District FFO** - Everyone should have received a letter re: the vaping situation. Please read it and discuss with your child. Renovation work at OG over the summer will include the softball and baseball fields, irrigation, and installation of batting cages.
- **Edukit** - pre-purchase your student's school supplies to pick up at the back to school event in August. Marketing will start soon.

Executive Positions - need a Treasurer, and also President or President elect for next year.

Reminder of our **ongoing fundraisers**: Aj's cards make great gifts for teachers! Please utilize Fry's VIP program, donate BoxTops, and use Amazon Smile.

We have **chair positions** open, please see Gina.

Lunch Duty - very urgently need lunch volunteers, especially for the first lunch. Please sign up for a shift. You can sign up for only one of the lunches if you would like.

Upcoming Events

Papa John's dine out this Friday, March 23.

April 13 SAC sandwich making.

April 24 Juvenile Law speech with Kate Spaulding. Time TBD

May 1st dine out at Chipotle.

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 am.