

Orange Grove General FFO Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 23, 2018

Present: Holly Leonard, Chip Smith, Steven Kelly, Marla Handler, Mary Nokhtarian, Doug Hadley, Carole Siegler, Clyde Brumfield, Phyllis Brumfield, Elsa Minjarez, Jen Johnson, Suzie Stadheim, Lina Haddad, Michele Thompson, Anita McGuire, Mary Grodman, Nancy Loose, Nancy Davis, Mary Tosca, Dayna Anderson, Kate Spaulding, Christeen Bates, Marianne Fett, Leslie Beckett, Nicholas Lockwood, Tim Colson, Valorie Colson, Shirley Parks, Bianca Rowley, Ela Benson, Angelica Verde, Ashleigh Kruk, Dan Leonard, Bill Owens, Melinda McNeilus, Olivia Sethi, Amanda Saffer, Blythe Edmondson, Heather Blakely, Mark Rubin-Toles, Jessica Brandt, Gina Mehmert.

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

Welcoming remarks by President Gina Mehmert, with an announcement that we need an incoming president this year who will take over the presidency next year.

Special welcome to Governing Board Members Carole Siegler and Doug Hadley.

Principal's Update - Mark Rubin-Toles

- Year is in full swing.
- ZAP starting off. You will receive an email update, and your student, about missing assignments. Will receive alerts at 3 missing assignments. At 6 missing assignments they will be invited to ZAP. We will honor parent preference; please respond to the email if your child cannot make the sessions. We don't want children to fall so far behind that they feel hopeless.
- Back to school night is next week. You will experience the life of a middle school student for two hours. Meet teachers, follow their schedule. Families of students in Mr. Bindschadler's class for the first time will have an orientation proceeding. Your child will bring home their schedule with room numbers.
- Our FFO is raising money to pay for a new shade structure in the courtyard. The large mesquite needed to be removed which left a gap in shade. Please help us raise the funds to install this needed shade. This fundraising is in addition to Panther Pride.
- Please consider joining the board as an incoming President so you can learn from Gina.

Executive Reports

Treasurer's Report - Heather Blakely

- Brief introduction of herself.
- Review of statements from last year.
- We ended the year in a very positive situation because of the reinvigoration of donations and volunteers from the Red for Ed movement.

Panther Pride - Blythe Edmondson

- Brief introduction of herself.
- Panther Pride is our direct giving campaign so we do not have to sell items such as wrapping paper or candy.
- Last year we were very close to meeting our raised goal.
- Goal this year is \$18,000, but will need \$21,450 to include the shade structure.

- These funds go for our grants, teacher appreciation, department needs, etc.
- Any amount is appreciated. We are going for participation from every family. Recommended is \$50-\$100.
- We have raised \$6500 approximately so far.
- We will be taking donations at back to school night.

Grants - Amanda Saffer

- Brief introduction of herself and the grants process.
- \$2000 budget this year for our children.
- First grant was for Panther Pals by teacher Jackie Goodson, \$500 for t-shirts and lunch for 8th grade mentors.

General Business

Minutes - Jessica Brandt

- Brief introduction.
- Please sign in and read the minutes of the prior meeting.
- Motion to approve the minutes from last meeting seconded and approved.

Presentation of 2018-2019 budget - Heather Blakely and Gina Mehmert

- This budget is recommended by the Executive Board in consultation with the Principal.
- Revenue - Thrilled to reintroduce Color Run this year. Book fair is a revenue generator for us, thanks to Christeen Bates for increasing this revenue. Dine outs and spirit wear also are revenue streams.
- Expenses - We have prioritized the electives that are under funded for more support. IXL licenses are very important. Events have expenses as well. Staff support \$200 to each teacher for classroom expenses. Staff appreciation lunches and dinners also come out of this category. Staff development funds go to support trainings and meetings. Family support category is small but please reach out if you or anyone you know is needing extra support. Community education is a new line item this year. Kate Spaulding will be presenting at our first education event October 23. These funds will also be used for Tyler Durman. He spoke at the high school last year to rave reviews so we have asked him to come back to speak at the middle schools as well. Student support consists of legacy project, PE uniforms, promotion, etc.
- Motion made to approve the budget seconded and approved.
- Shade structure is a joint project funded by community schools, facilities, and FFO. Our portion is about \$3200. Motion made to use reserves to fund the shade structure seconded and approved.
- Tyler Durman's contract needs to be paid in the next few weeks. Motion made to approve \$4500 from reserves to pay this now seconded and approved.

Presentation of 2018-2019 committee chairs - Gina Mehmert

- Still need a few positions filled: Book fair co-chair, promotion co-chairs, community cards, hospitality.

Committee Reports

Dine Out - Michele Thompson

- First dine out is this Saturday the 25th at the Chipotle by Tucson Mall. They are giving us 33% back. Michele's revenue budget was increased because she did such a great job last year.

Spirit Wear - Ashleigh Kruk and Leslie Beckett

- Order your spirit wear now. Orders must be received by August 30.

Student Action Committee - Courtney Hinkle

- Courtney sends her regrets that she cannot attend today.
- Her committee sponsors two events during the year, one benefitting Youth on their Own and the other for Casa Maria.

Legislative - Beth Mercaldo (report submitted via email for inclusion in minutes)

Proposition 464: The Catalina Foothills School District has called a special budget override election seeking voter authorization to continue the current 13.3% budget override previously approved by voters. Renewing the existing override will not create new taxes.

"Catalina Foothills School District's longstanding 13.3 percent override, which brings in \$3.6 million annually, isn't targeted to any specific programs or position, but rather is mixed in with its general funding and supports all schools," said Assistant Superintendent Denise Bartlett.

Catalina Foothills' override is set to wind down in the 2019-2020 school year, at which point the district would start losing money if an override doesn't pass before then. "We would have to reduce staffing across the board, in all grade levels, probably, and that would increase class sizes. Then we'd have to look program by program to see which ones are viable and which are less viable," said Ms. Bartlett.

Note: These funds have been used at OG (new carpet, smart boards, projectors, field improvements, parking lot, etc.)

Prop 464 will be voted on this November 6, 2018.

Proposition 305: Expansion of Empowerment Scholarship Accounts

Referendum: Prop 305 is a ballot initiative that asks if AZ citizens want to keep or do away with an expansion of the state's school voucher-style program.

The Empowerment Scholarship Account program currently allows only certain students to apply for the program, including special-needs students and those from poor-performing schools. The program gives parents public money and allows them to spend it on private school tuition, educational materials and therapies.

Last year Senate Bill 1431 was passed to expand eligibility to all 1.1 million public students in Arizona, but capping the program at about 30,000.

What is an ESA?

In 2011, Arizona became the first state to establish an Empowerment Scholarship Accounts program. The original program allowed parents or guardians of students with disabilities to sign a contract to opt out of the public school system, and instead receive an ESA from the Arizona Department of Education (ADEP). An ESA is funded at 90 percent of what the state would have paid for the student in a district or charter school. Parents or guardians use a prepaid bank card to pay for education-related tuition and fees, textbooks, tutoring, educational therapies, and curriculum. Recipients of ESAs are

required to submit quarterly spending reports to DEP. Between 2011 and 2017, the program was expanded to cover students meeting other specified criteria.

How does SB 1431 change the ESAs program?

This referendum was initiated to overturn SB 1431, which was designed to make all K-12 students eligible to apply for an ESA. The expansion would phase in over four school years. For 2017-2018, students in kindergarten or grades 1, 6, and 9 would be eligible for ESAs. For 2019-2020, students in kindergarten or grades 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, and 10 would be eligible. For 2020-2021, students in kindergarten or grades 1 through 3 and 6 through 11 would be eligible. For 2021-2022, all K-12 students would be eligible. SB 1431 would cap the number of new students allowed to receive ESAs at 0.5 percent of the total number of students enrolled in school districts and charter schools per year through school year 2022-2023. For school year 2023-2024 and thereafter, the number of new ESAs per year would not exceed the number approved for school year 2022-2023.

A “yes” vote supports upholding Senate Bill 1431, which was designed to phase in an expansion of the state’s Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESAs) program to make all students eligible to apply for an ESA.

A “no” vote opposes upholding Senate Bill 1431, which was designed to phase in an expansion of the state’s ESAs program to make all public school students eligible to apply for an ESA.

Arizona Proposition 305 is on the ballot in Arizona as a veto referendum on November 6, 2018.

Communications - Tim Colson

- Launched a new website and e-newsletter. Creation of the e-newsletter was suggested by parents in the survey sent out last spring. Very happy that we have a 70% open rate. orangegroveffo.org site is live and has all of the donation links.

Foundation Report - Melinda McNeilus

- Melinda is the president of the foundation, Galena Robinson is our foundation representative. She will be giving a report on foundation activities. Money donated to the foundation goes directly to support teachers. We fund the Great Beginnings program for teachers in their first-third years. They offer professional development and mentorship for beginning teachers. The goal of this program is to develop great teachers and retain them in the district. Our goal for parents is \$1 a day, \$365 this year. You will get a free ticket to Tapas for Teachers with this amount, \$1000 donation will get two tickets. Tapas for Teachers is October 19 at St. Phillips Plaza. OG Promotion parking spot will be raffled off at the event.

Community Schools - Mary Grodman

- Oversee both MS and the HS programs. First quarter is underway with a ton of kids participating. Have 7th and 8th grade football team, 6th grade football team is new. Monday and Wednesday flag football will start soon. Games start next week, the schedule is on the CS website. Team photos taken September 12 and 13. Many after school enrichment classes as well: photography, yearbook, comedy, lego robotics, etc. Study hall registering is different this year. \$4 a day, you can pick the days you want. You have to register a week before, or the whole quarter at once. Beginning

backpacking class to start next month. Includes an overnight on Mt. Lemmon. A few spots still open. High Sierra donated backpacks for this. Caving trips and Patagonia Lake camping trips are starting to fill. Second quarter registration set for October 8.

District Report - Gina Mehmert

No news yet.

Other News

- Reminder of our ongoing fundraisers- Amazon Smile, Fry's, AJ's, and Box Tops.
- Lunch duty volunteers needed. New link this year www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c48aba72aa64-ogms7
- Sign up to receive our new e-newsletter www.OrangeGroveFFO.org.

Upcoming Events

- August 25- Dine out at Chipotle.
- August 29 -Staff Appreciation dinner
- August 29 -Parent Open House
- August 30 -Deadline to order spirit wear
- October 23 -Educational event starring Kate Spaulding from Teen Court.

Next FFO Meeting: September 27, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

Parent meeting preceding FFO at 7:45 - 7th grade parents.

Meeting adjourned at 10:06.