

Orange Grove General FFO Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 27, 2018

Present: Gina Mehmert, Mark Rubin-Toles, Jessica Brandt, Shirley Parks, Andee Coppel, Christeen Bates, Nancy Loose, Kate Spaulding, Brenda Pinto, Monisha Patel, Michele Thompson, Michelle Ijams, Leslie Beckett, Galena Robinson, Sarah Reitmeyer, Bart Pemberton, Brenda Harrington, Blythe Edmondson, Lina Haddad, Courtney Hinkle, Lucy Young, Anne Gruber, Amy Bhola.

Meeting called to order by President Gina Mehmert at 8:41am.

Special welcome to Governing Board Member Amy Bhola.

Principal's Update - Mark Rubin-Toles

- We are almost finished with the first quarter, October 5.
- Parent conferences after that week. Tuesday and Wednesday, October 9 and 10, are half days for parent conferences. This Sunday night instructions and sign ups will become available. Limited slots. Get in there as soon as you get the instructions.
- The goal for conferences is solving problems and setting goals for students. Conferences are not required; if your student is doing well consider not scheduling an appointment and leaving those slots open for students that need more guidance
- Shade structure installation pushed back to next Wednesday.
- Excited about the book fair.

Budget Report - Heather Blakely

- Many teacher reimbursement checks written.
- Scholastic subscription in place.
- These statements go through August 31, and do not reflect September activity.
- Sold a lot of dry fit PE shirts.
- The spend down of the reserves is not reflected in this report.

Panther Pride - Blythe Edmondson

- Currently at \$16,000. Only \$5000 left to goal.
- A lot of donations for the shade structure.
- Most of these are \$50 to \$100 donations from families.
- Next is funding for Tyler Durman.
- Please try to convince families that haven't donated yet.

Grants - Amanda Saffer

- Receiving a grant application for a science project (fossil study) soon.
- Grants are available, to teachers and parents.

Secretary - Jessica Brandt

- Please sign the attendance form.
- Please sign up to receive our electronic newsletter, that comes out once a month.
- Please forward any committee news or announcements for inclusion in the newsletter.

General Business

Approve Minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes seconded and approved.

Shade Structure

- Very excited to have funded this. Thank you! Planning an event to celebrate the donors and efforts of everyone to get this project completed. Please see Gina if you would like to help with this ribbon cutting ceremony.

Committee Reports

Book Fair

- Monday before school and lunch. Tuesday/Wednesday during conferences.
- Sign up genius is out, please consider helping before school and during lunches. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0d4aaaab22a7fa7-fall>
- The profits stay as scholastic dollars which fund the magazine subscriptions.
- Supports in class curriculum.
- Also donated books to the library from the profits, and give teachers a \$10 gift certificate.

Color Run

- January 25. Date change from what was earlier published.
- Register ahead of time. Check in for the event about 3:15. Students are not staying after school for this. Should go home and come back.
- Run to start around 4:00. DJ is there, a lot of fun.
- Goal is 200 runners at least.
- Galena's last year; would like to get people to shadow that can take over next year.
- Specifically looking for help in sponsorships, water/food sales, course marking, promotion of the event.
- This is a fun, community building event.
- Looking for a main sponsor, called the Rainbow Sponsor for \$3000.
- Registration will be live soon on square. Links from the orangegroveffo.org site.
- Register early to make sure you get a shirt and generate enthusiasm.
- Will need a lot of volunteers. Tell Galena if you want to receive the sign up genius for volunteers.

Community Cards

- Programs that we use to earn money for the school.
- Amazon smile is popular.
- Benefit mobil has a number of participating retailers, and gives from 1-20%. You buy a gift card from the app and use the funds to make your purchase.
- Fry's cards can be linked to OG, used for groceries and gas. Need to re-register every year.
- Basha's community support cards, buy one for \$10 at the front office. School makes 6% off cards, then 6% from the amount you pay to reload it.
- Please tell your parents about these fundraisers, they can help.
- Still collecting box tops for the student council. Check your Safeway receipts for box tops.

Dine outs

- Thanks for going to Chipotle. Raised \$350, less than our usual amount. Trying to schedule an event for the end of October.

Community Education

- Kate Spaulding presentation on October 23 6:30 in the library. Will cover juvenile law topics like curfew, marijuana, school violations.
- Please register on the FFO website.
- Kids are invited. Geared toward middle school aged kids.

Family Support

- No needs yet. Email Anne if you would like to sign up for this committee.

Hospitality

- We use donations for the meetings. Please sign up if you would like to help with this.

Legislative Update

- On August 29, 2018, the Arizona Supreme Court issued a ruling, knocking Prop 207, Invest in Education income tax measure, off the November ballot.
- According to the ruling, the measure's description "did not accurately represent the increased tax burden on the affected classes of taxpayers." The measure, titled Prop 207, was expected to bring in \$690 million in additional funding for Arizona public district and charter schools. Supporters had framed Prop. 207 as a way to fully restore the more than \$1 billion in cuts to education funding since the recession. Opponents claimed the proposed income-tax hike would have been catastrophic to AZ's economy. There have not been alternative funding proposals.
- Still on the ballot, Prop 464.
- On November 6th, there will be an override renewal question on the ballot which will greatly affect funding for our school district: Proposition 464 is a 13.3% K-12 combined renewal of the two overrides last approved in 2013.
- School funding in Arizona has been reduced by 20.7% since 2008. Although a fraction of that reduction will be restored this year, without this override renewal, \$3.6 million in current funding will phase out over the next two years. This will result in unavoidable increases in class size, cuts in staff, and critical cuts in educational programs across all grade levels.
- Still on the ballot, Prop. 305.
- 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 ESA program currently allows only certain students to apply for the program, including special-needs students and those from poor-performing schools. 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.
- On September 24, 2018, a State Board of Education meeting was held.
- Teachers, parents and others asked the state Board of Education to reject efforts by the state schools chief to alter academic standards for state schools. During the meeting, several people testified that Superintendent of Public Instruction Diane Douglas was seeking to undermine the science standards crafted by a group of teachers. They specifically took aim at what were last-minute changes she and her staff made in language dealing with climate change and changes in references to evolution.
- They also told board members they should ignore a bid by Douglas to adopt charter school standards crafted by Hillsdale College, a private Christian school, for all public schools in the state.

- Douglas' response was that she was happy with the last-minute changes. She also told board members that if they were unwilling to adopt the standards in the form she presented them, then they should scrap all of that – and the years of work that went into them – and simply adopt the entire Hillsdale-created Christian based standards.
- The board took no action, deferring any final vote for at least a month.

Lunch volunteers

- Thanks for your help! We still need more. Consider signing up for a lunch shift. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c48aba72aa64-ogms?>

Spirit Wear

- First delivery went out. We got a very positive response. Gauging interest to determine next order time.

Staff Appreciation

- This committee gave treats to the staff in September. October 10 lunch is planned on conference day. If you would like to help serve please contact Abby or Gina.
- Soup luncheon in November. Please sign up early so the chair can plan ahead. Email Gina if you can make a soup.

Foundation

- Goal is to find and keep fantastic teachers. First event is Tapas for Teachers Friday, October 19, 6-9pm. \$40 gets you a drink ticket and food from the booths. Adults only. An 80's cover band plays.
- We need a Teacher of the Year Orange Grove representative. Must attend a few meetings, get the word out for nominations, collect nominations, be a part of the selection committee.

Community Schools

- Q2 registration to open the beginning of October. They promised that they've worked out the kinks from the registration system.
- Esperero is looking for a soccer coach, for nominal pay.

Upcoming events

- Oct. 8-10 Fall Book Fair
- Oct. 10 Staff Appreciation Lunch
- Oct. 23 Juvenile Law: Poor Choices Your Good Kid Makes. RSVP to orangegroveffo.org

Next FFO Meeting: Thursday, October 25, at 8:30 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37.