

# **Orange Grove General FFO Meeting Minutes**

## **Thursday, October 25, 2018**

Present: Gina Mehmert, Mark Rubin-Toles, Mary Kamerzell, Jessica Brandt, Courtney Hinkle, Amanda Saffer, Anne Gruber, Heather Blakely, Leslie Beckett, Suzie Stadheim, Galena Robinson, Ashleigh Kruk, Bart Pemberton, Marianne Fett, Monisha Patel, Blythe Edmondson, Michelle Ijams, Brenda Pinto, Lucy Young, Nancy Loose, Mary Grodman.

Meeting called to order by President Gina Mehmert at 8:34.

Special welcome to Superintendent Dr. Mary Kamerzell.

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

- Super busy week this week.
- 94 people attended the Juvenile Law presentation. Going to post the video for others to watch. Students and parents were totally engaged for the full 1.5 hrs.
- First assembly tomorrow.
- First Panther Pals lessons tomorrow. 8th grade mentors will lead a lesson for all 6th graders on tips and tricks for surviving middle school. 7th graders will start goal setting for student led conferences.
- Lock down drill this week. Will have more than one this year. Added a segment where facts and statistics about school shootings are shared, to decrease students' fear. Mass shootings at schools have gone down since the 90's. The actual risk to middle school students is very low. More likely to die from the flu or a car accident. Will make this info public on the website.
- Check parent vue for missing assignments and 1st quarter grades.

### **Address from Dr. Kamerzell**

- November 6th special budget override election.
- The district gets a certain amount of money from the state per student. This equals \$6211.58 per student.
- Would like to add 13.3% to the budget, an extra \$695.86 per student.
- This override has always been approved in the past, and would not raise property taxes.
- The overrides have a 7 year life. This the 5th year; the election has been called to avoid the start of a phase-out in 2019-2020.
- Need non-parent votes to pass this override. They have always supported us in the past. They realize that good schools affect their property values.

### **Treasurer**

- Did really well at the book fair, over \$2700 in sales.
- Have sold a lot of PE shirts.
- Second dine-out last night will be reflected next month.
- Teacher reimbursements have slowed down a bit.
- The benefit of financial support early in the year is it allows us to focus on the execution of our plans.

## **Panther Pride**

- We hit our goal before the end of October!
- We would still love your donation if you haven't made one yet.

## **Grants**

- No new grants to discuss.

## **Secretary**

- October newsletter correction: incorrectly stated that Kate Spaulding is an attorney.
- Please forward the newsletter to parents who don't receive it and encourage them to sign up.
- Submissions due November 13 for the next newsletter which will be published after Thanksgiving.

## **General Business**

- Motion to approve the minutes seconded and approved.
- Shade structure installed. Kids are loving and using it.
- Education- huge thanks for attending the juvenile law presentation. Kids were engaged the whole time. Pima Teen Court is a phenomenal volunteer program for teens.
- Next education event November 30 at 7:45, before the FFO meeting, on online safety. Lou Norman is a senior security analyst with Cisco. Focusing on what we as parents need to be aware of.
- March 20 Tyler Durman will be here at OG for a student presentation. Parent meeting for OG and Esperero will be combined and held at the HS. Not sure of that date yet.
- Committee Reports
  - Book Fair - thanks to the volunteers who helped this year. Hats off to Christeen for increasing revenue 30%.
  - Color Run - January 25. Please get registered before the holiday break. Registration is live now. You can also purchase other items for the run. Sign up genius for volunteers will go up this week. Looking for volunteer captains. Monisha is heading up food/water and could use a shadow for next year. Also need a course helper. Please see Galena if you would like to volunteer.
- Community Cards - all the information is on our website now. Pass along to grandparents, etc. Untapped revenue stream.
- Dine outs- thanks to everyone who went to Pei Wei. Michelle is looking for suggestions for the next dine out.
- Legislative Update -
  - The state Board of Education rebuffed a bid by schools chief Diane Douglas to adopt standards for Arizona's public schools crafted by a Christian college. The new standards that were adopted incorporate some last-minute changes proposed by the Arizona Science Teachers Association. The most notable change includes a clear statement that "the unity and diversity of organism, living and extinct, is the result of evolution." The science teachers also succeeded in restoring language that says students should be asked to analyze geoscience data and results from global climate models "to make evidence-based predictions of the current rate and scale of global or regional climate change." And they wanted students to be able to construct an evidence-based explanation for how the availability of natural resources and changes

in climate have influenced human activity. In summary, they convinced the board to adopt the language about evolution.

- 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.
- 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.
- Lunch volunteers - on going call for lunch volunteers. This is a very important job. Please sign up here <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c48aba72aa64-ogms7>.
- Spirit wear - another group sale coming up in November. Guaranteed delivery before winter break.
- Staff appreciation - Huge thanks for the donations for the last event during fall conferences. November 16 is the soup lunch. Abby is setting up the sign up genius for food. No such thing as too much soup! Thank you in advance for your help.
- Student Action Committee - new student council staff chair. Meeting soon to go over past and future plans. Will post the holiday plans in the next newsletter. Most likely will be a food/toiletry drive for Youth on Their Own.
- Foundation - wrote a big check to the district for \$75,000, which goes entirely to the attraction, training, and retention of our teachers. Tapas for Teachers was a fun event, with good turnout. We are appreciative of the food donations and silent auction items. Teacher of the Year (TOY) is coming up. Nomination box will be in the front office November 1-30. Kids and parents can make nominations. Must be a 5th year teacher to win, but all teachers get a copy of the nomination and makes them feel great. Also will have an online form on the foundation website. There is a list of the previous winners on the website.
- Community Schools - second quarter started last week. Basketball, soccer teams are huge. Games starting next week. Uniforms coming today or early next week. Have a new uniform vendor. We have a lot of enrichment classes that are well attended. The OG team is working very well and programs are running smoothly. Friday, December 14th, third quarter registration will begin. Will have a 7th and 8th grade boys soccer team, and we will need another coach. Winter break hikes scheduled to Madera Canyon and Picacho Peak. We are starting to recruit for summer staff now. Exploring

the idea of career focused summer programs, like nursing, law enforcement, fire fighting, etc. If you have any ideas please send them to Mary.

- Garden - The FFO funded a grant request to build a garden last year. The teacher sponsor left this year so the garden needs help. Now is a great time to plant. Parents or grandparents are welcome to take on this project.
- District Report
  - Teacher salaries posted in a more prominent position on the website.
  - 6 national merit scholar semi-finalists at the HS. They came from OG.
  - The HS is raising money for a new sound system in the gym. Would like to raise the money before Tyler Durman in March.

Reminder of our ongoing fundraisers - If you use Amazon for black Friday shopping please use Amazon Smile and link to the OG FFO. We do collect box tops in the front office for the student council.

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

**Meeting adjourned at 9:34.**