

Orange Grove General FFO Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Present: Joe Arnett, Margie Arnett, Amanda Saffer, Bart Pemberton, Shirley Parks, Melinda McNeilus, Ashleigh Kruk, Michelle Ijams, Georgette Stathis, Heidi Williams, Steven Kelly, Leslie Beckett, Galena Robinson, Nancy Loose, Sarah Reitmeyer, Marianne Fett, Jessica Brandt, Gina Mehmert, Heather Blakely, Mark Rubin-Toles, Amy Bhola.

Meeting called to order by President Gina Mehmert at 8:47am.

Special thank you to Governing Board President Amy Bhola for attending.

Principal's Update - Mark Rubin-Toles

- January has been a very fast and busy month.
- Color Run is tomorrow.
- Next Tuesday is Falcon Fly In when the 8th graders visit CFHS; on the same day 5th graders come here to experience OG. Purpose of these visits is to ease the transition to a new school.
- Friday we are having an assembly to recognize academic and athletic achievements. Will have performances by various groups.
- Feb. 8 is the cultural luncheon, all parents are invited. Cost is \$3.50 for lunch. You get to eat with your child. Celebrating the cultures of Panama, Norway, and China. There will be performances and art displayed.
- March 14-15 Student Led Conferences. Mandatory for all students. Would like them to present to a parent, but you can ask someone to fill in for you if you can't make it.

Bridgett Walters - Buffelgrass: A Desert SOS

- Buffelgrass is an invasive species brought from Africa 100 yrs ago. It has created a disaster for the desert.
- Bridget discovered a scholarship for kids to do a well researched environmental project. She chose buffelgrass.
- Why should we care? If buffelgrass is left to spread wildfires will be more prominent, our desert will become a grassland.
- Buffelgrass can burn 100 yards of ground in 3 minutes. It poses a danger to our plants that are not adapted to fire. Only the buffelgrass would grow back after a fire, not native plants.
- Buffelgrass steals water from the saguaros. They can't grow and reproduce.
- The first step is identification, then removal.
- Saturday, February 16, 9-11 am Bridget is hosting an event to remove buffelgrass from campus. Meet in the bus bay. She will provide the tools, safety vests, and trash bags donated by Tucson Clean And Beautiful. Also handing out identification booklets.
- Gloves, rakes or hoes, are the best equipment to bring.
- Get the word out to your friends and family.
- This commitment is time consuming and takes a lot of effort. But in a few years we can eliminate the buffelgrass in this area.

President

- Need two officers for next year. **Secretary** is a great job for someone who likes to be involved behind the scenes. We also need a **President** for next year. It's a great role, definitely can be fulfilled by a working parent. Works with a dedicated team of volunteers to raise funds and run activities. We would really like a Sunrise parent for next year. Have had Manzanita parent presidents for a few years and would like to balance out the representation. Gina reports she spends 30 minutes to 10 hours/week of time on FFO activities; averaging about 2.5-3.5 hrs per week.

Treasurer

- Color Run money is coming in now. Most of that money will be reflected in next months report.
- Have switched over to an electronic system of payments. Much easier to get signatures for e-checks.
- The FFO has established our very own Amazon Prime account that is tax exempt. Committee Chairs can use this for orders. Ask Heather for details.

Panther Pride

- No new report since goal was hit early.

Grants

- New grant submitted by Anne Morgan for six sets of student brooms and dust pans for \$185. Students will be able to clean up their own messes. Motion to approve this grant seconded and approved.

Secretary

- The best reason to be secretary is you can say no when someone asks you to be President!

General Business

- Motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting were seconded and approved.
- Supplies are needed. Check the [list here](#), or just bring kleenex!
- 8th Grade Promotion News- we have 2 dance chairs - thank you! We still need a cookie reception chair and ice cream social chair. The ice cream social is very fun. Don't volunteer if you have a 5th grade student this year.
 - Please give your promotion fees. These voluntary donations offset the cost of promotion. Visit orangegroveffo.org to donate.
 - Portraits will be taken March 19. You have to buy a package to get a photo taken. Order form will be sent home with the students. Need 1 or 2 parent helpers on that day with Brita. Please see Gina.
- Book fair - Christeen Bates is chairing again. Starts on March 11 (same week as SLC's). Good revenue stream for us. We use a lot of the funds to buy magazine subscriptions used in the curriculum. She needs volunteers to help set up, take payments, tear down. March 8 we will be hosting a teacher preview and luncheon with staff appreciation chair Abby Michieli. Will give each teacher a \$15 certificate and

lunch in the book fair room. Giving \$350 in scholastic dollars to the Librarian to spend at the book fair.

- Kate Schwartz is chairing bus driver appreciation again this year - thank you! It's her last year, if you would like to partner with her to learn the ropes this year that would be great. We are not hosting the event this year; getting kids to sign cards, etc.
- Color Run - tomorrow! Students cannot stay after school, unless you are volunteering. Come 3:30-3:45 to check in, get color pack, get accessories, run starts at 4:15. A DJ will be there. Very close to our budget goal; only need 5 more runners. We can take late registrations, but does not include a t-shirt. Will have prepackaged snacks and eegee's/water. Bring small bills please! Volunteer list is almost full; but if you're there that day we could use you as a route monitor. Kids are free to walk, but we encourage them to run a little. They will hit 3 color stations twice.
- Dine Out - February 7 MOD Pizza Wetmore/Oracle all day.
- Education - Amanda Saffer will be speaking before the FFO meeting next month about nutrition, sleep, and device usage awareness for our children.
 - March 20 Tyler Durman will be visiting staff and teachers in the morning, all students that day during 3 assemblies. In the evening at 6:30, parents can attend a special parent presentation at CFHS for OG and Esperero parents. Parents only, not children. 550 seat capacity, please RSVP. The previous RSVP was hacked and had to be redone. You must RSVP again this week to guarantee a seat.
- Hospitality - Thanks to Allison Corkey for the coffee and pastries this morning. We still have a few more meetings that need snacks. Check the [signup here](#)
- Lunch volunteers always needed.
- Spirit Wear - we met our revenue goal this year. Staff members ordered a lot of spirit wear; they really like it. Teachers can only wear t-shirts and jeans if they have an OG shirt.
- Staff appreciation - hosted a dinner Tuesday before Panther Palooza. Next event is set for Valentines Day, then in March combined with the book fair.
- Student Action Committee - holiday drive went great, two car loads full of blankets and toiletries. Meeting in February to start planing the sandwich making event in April.
- Foundation - Thanks for your donations for the year end push. We've not yet hit the goal for the school year, please make your donations. Teacher of the Year on April 7 at Westward Look. February 1st the TOY will be announced, and OG has one finalist.
- Community Schools - 3rd quarter underway, games starting this week. Registration numbers are lower this quarter. Need volleyball and track and field coaches for 4th quarter. Would love a 7th grade and 8th grade boys baseball coach, now that we have new batting cages. So we need one more baseball coach. March 4th possible date for

Q4 registration. Going up to Verde Valley over spring break for a 3 day trip. Registration begins Feb 27 for summer Camp Foothills. More middle school programming added this summer. Carrie Burson, JTED coordinator for CFHS, will have career exploration offerings. Well also have volunteer camps and middle school out door programs. HS for credit dates have been changed to May 28-July 3rd, ending one day earlier for more vacation time. So the daily school times will have to be tweaked to make up for a lost day. PE in the am, health in the pm. El Charro will be catering most of the summer meals at Camp.

- District News - January 29 and Feb. 5, need volunteers to help at the HS for Falcon Fly In from 8:00-1:30. Meet in the counseling office.
 - Tim Colson is working with Dr. Kamerzell and the school principals on communication tools district wide.
- Remember our ongoing fundraisers. Student Council uses boxtops revenue for their activities.
- Sign up to receive our e-newsletter.

Upcoming Events

Color Run tomorrow

Feb 7 MOD Pizza Dine Out

Feb 14 Staff Appreciation Event

Feb 28 FFO Meeting

Next FFO Meeting: February 28, 2019

Meeting adjourned at 9:54am.