

Orange Grove General FFO Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 25, 2019

Present: Mark Rubin-Toles, Gina Mehmert, Jessica Brandt, Andee Coppel, Lucy Young, Allison Corkey, Tim Colson, Joe Arnett, Blythe Edmondson, Brenda Pinto, Heather Blakesly, Nancy E. Davis, Heidi G. Williams, Roxan Olivas, Bianca Rowley, Steven Kelly, Monisha Patel, Ashleigh Kruk, Eileen Jackson, Courtney Hinkle, Leslie Beckett, Marianne Fett, Mary Kamerzell.

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

Special welcome to Governing Board Member Eileen Jackson and Superintendent Dr. Mary Kamerzell.

Superintendent's Address on the Budget

Congratulations to Gina for being recognized as a super volunteer at the last Governing Board Meeting.

- Our fiscal year is July 1-June 30.
- Where does the money come from? The state tells us how much money per child we will have, \$4089 this year. Some students get more money, like HS students, students with disabilities, English language learners, etc.
- We have high property values, so most of our budget is paid by residents. The State fills in the rest of the allowed budget.
- Transportation: we receive funds based on ridership and number of miles travelled. Always have outsourced transportation. It's been a terrible year for bus ridership. Shortage of bus drivers has been a big problem this year.
- There is a law that allows districts to ask for a 15% budget override. We have asked our taxpayers for 13.3% budget override, and they have always said yes. The Governing Board has kept it to 13.3%.
- "Move on When Reading" prevents any 3rd grade student from moving to 4th grade if they don't show reading proficiency. Have special monies for reading intervention for K-3. We have never retained a 3rd grader in the history of this law.
- Have 4% carry forward money. We roll this money forward and budget for it.
- Where does the money go? Employee salaries and wages and fixed costs take up the biggest chunk.
- Facility maintenance and grounds. We have our own maintenance crew on staff. 1 million square feet of space.
- Transportation costs are higher than the money we receive because of fuel costs.
- Each school gets money based on enrollment.
- Curriculum maintenance is half a million. This is just to keep what we have going. Replenishing books, science kits, etc.
- We do supplement athletics at the HS. Gate fees, tax credits, and player fees also help the athletics budget.
- Contingency is a very modest amount. We've spent \$90,000 so far this year.
- Next year we are shifting some money from capital to the medical insurance fund.
- Budget is larger next year; happy to backfill some of the expenses we cut during the great recession. Adding 2 full time counselors to the middle and high schools. Adding a full time assistant principal to both MS.

- Adding a part time orchestra teacher.
- Because of Red for Ed teachers getting a 5% increase next year from the state. The state has a narrow definition of who gets the raise. Our other professional staff does not qualify, so we are giving them those raises. Other employees receiving a 3% raise.
- 43% of our enrollment are open enrollment. Many families traveling far to get to our schools. We need these students to keep the schools open and running. 5000 students is our “sweet spot.”
- We lose some students at 4th grade to charter schools, and they come back in HS, usually. 500 plus charter schools in Arizona. Most are in TUSD.

Principal's Update - Mark Rubin-Toles

- Thanks for coming to our last FFO meeting of the year, and Gina's last meeting. Thanks to Joe for taking on the role next year.
- For our 8th graders the end of the year is a real passage. Auditions for MC and speakers happened this week for the ceremony. Promotion, cookie reception, dance, 8th grade social are planned.
- Science Olympiad team took 3rd in state their first year in existence.
- Chess team took 2nd and 10th in two different age divisions.
- Other year ending things beginning to happen. Kids need to bring back library books.
- Late work deadline for all work is Wednesday, May 15.
- Summer school with Ms. Schaedler. Kids will be invited who have struggled academically this year. This will bolster their skills for next year. Also a math summer school taught by Mrs. Martin at the HS.
- Good idea for you to sit down with your kid and check student vue. They should show you what is going on.

Treasurer

- We have had a great year in terms of revenue. Major expense still to come is promotion. Have also asked teachers to submit their expenses for teacher support.
- Have started to plan for next year as a board, i.e. PUUP.
- Are also topping off some of the staff requests for supplies.
- Funded some new balls for the playground.

Panther Pride

- No update.

Grants

- One grant from Ms. Goodson for \$300 for book making supplies for 6th grade English students. Motion to fund this grant seconded and approved.

Secretary

- Please welcome Leslie as the secretary for next year. She is starting her training today.
- Thanks for reading the newsletter!

General Business

- Motion to accept the minutes from last month seconded and approved.

- Have raised more money this year than anticipated and budgeted for. We have grown our reserves and need to spend down. \$43-55K projected to be in reserves. Best practice for a non-profit is to have 6 months of expenses in reserves. The board proposes we keep \$20K in reserves for next year, which leaves \$23-35K to spend.
- A parent recommends we spend money on a set of bleachers for the gym. Maybe tax credit money can pay for this from community schools. Will take this to Mary and Travis.
- EFFO recommends we spend \$13,500 on security cameras including adequate signage advertising the surveillance. We have had some vandalism on campus and surrounding neighborhoods. Principal Rubin-Toles feels this is an urgent need. Motion to spend \$13,500 for surveillance and signage seconded and approved. We are confident that we can fund this fully.
- The EFFO recommends we spend up to \$10,000 for wifi enabled clocks. These are needed for the efficient operation of the school. Kids lose instruction minutes, or are rushed to class. Roughly 45 rooms need these clocks. Motion to spend up to \$10,000 on wifi enabled clocks seconded and approved.
- The last item the EFFO recommends is to gift up to \$5000 from this year's reserve to an MPR projector system. Motion to give up to \$5000 to a new MPR projector seconded and approved. The balance for the projector (\$15K) will be raised through Panther Pride next year. The speaker system needs upgrading and will be tackled at a later time.

Community Schools

- OGMS 8th Gr Baseball is undefeated! They are going to play Esperero under the lights at CFHS on Monday, May 6th at 6:30pm. Please join us!
- Next home track meet is Wednesday, May 1st at 4:30pm.
- 8th grade Football Strength and Conditioning camp starts Monday, April 29th 5:30-7:30pm and runs Monday through Friday at CFHS with our new HS Football Coach Darius Kelly. Registration is open online now.
- Summer Camp Foothills Registration is open. May 17 is the early bird deadline. Don't miss out on a 10% discount. Classes and camps are beginning to fill.
- Summer HS PE/Health are full. We have an online waitlist.
- Email Mary at mgrodman@cfsd16.org or call 209-8313 if you have questions.

Open Committee Positions

We need parking lot organizing the first 10 days of school. We run a quick 20 minute shift in the am and pm, and also when community schools gets out at 4:15. You don't have to be present for all the shifts, but organize the volunteers. Book fair chair also a priority position.

Pick Up and Unpack

Mark your calendars for PUUP! August 1 is set up. August 2 is for 6th graders and new to OG. August 5th is for 7th and 8th graders. August 7th is for late comers. August 8th school starts.

8th Grade Promotion

Ordered ice cream and toppings. We have many kids with food allergies so the order is complicated this year. The dance theme is approved, DJ and photo booth is contracted,

sign up genius for snacks will go out soon, as well as volunteer help for set up and tear down.

Book Fair

Huge thanks to Christeen Bates, our book fair chair. Revenues at an all time high. We also grew our Scholastic Dollars account. We are providing \$1800 Scholastic Dollars for library furniture and counselors positive behavior program.

Bus Driver Appreciation is happening right now at MAC. Thanks to Kate Schwartz for leading the effort again this year.

Communications - Over 200 newsletter subscribers, with a high read rate of over 60%. Thanks Tim Colson for leading this.

Community Cards - Benefit Mobile continues to wow us! Please consider using it. Great revenue stream for us.

Dine outs - no more events this year. We need a new chair. System is simplified and easier, and brings in needed revenue to the FFO. We try for 4 dine outs per year. The first one should be early in the school year; seems to be the best time.

Education - Michelle Ijams is the chair for next year.

Family Support - no active needs currently. Grocery gift cards are needed over the summer. Turn in to the front office in an envelope to Anne Morgan.

Hospitality - Huge thanks to Allison Corkey and Lynn Cosgrove for the great breakfasts.

Legislative - check The Boarder for the latest updates.

Lunch Volunteers - thank you to all the people who do this!

PE Uniforms and Spirit Wear - Leslie, Monisha, and Ashleigh have done a great job this year. Meeting now to determine choices for next year. Suggestions are to look at alternatives to the orange shirts. Hats also requested. Spirit wear makes a great staff gift as well.

Staff Appreciation - May 6th treats planned.

SAC - fantastic sandwich making event. Over 60 kids and lots of parents. Made over 1000 sandwiches in 30 minutes. We ran out of bread. Casa Maria was happy to take the leftover meat and cheese. Site Council has requested to add a campus beautification day to the SAC calendar in early fall, and Courtney has agreed to take this on.

Other news

- EduKits lists have been reviewed by teachers and are exactly what kids need. Please order today.
- Kleenex, pre-packaged dry snacks, and ziplock bags are currently needed by the Nurse.

Upcoming Events

May 21 8th grade promotion and dance

May 22 8th grade ice cream social and last day of school.

Next FFO Meeting: August 2019!

Meeting adjourned at 10:01 am.