

Orange Grove General FFO Meeting Minutes Thursday, January 23, 2019, at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Sarah Reitmeyer, Kate Spaulding, Blythe Edmondson, Jennie Buban, Amanda Rellora, Pamela Cesarek, Dana Levine, Sarah Schulte, Joe Schulte, Amber Zacarias, Carrie Frye, Heather Blakely, Kim Bourn, Amy Bhola, Alex Mastrangelo, Jennifer Ford, Allison Corkey, Xanny Quiambad, Ann Lee, Katrin Schumacher, Eileen Pastorious, Kelly Diaz, Liz Doak, Jeannette Hartshorne, Jiu Tronziger, Ashleigh Kruk, Marianne Fett, Michelle Ijams, Emirse Hildebrand, Olga Barnos Gomez, Bob Sankey, Jaqueline Power, Leslie Beckett, Mark Rubin-Toles

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

Welcomed Governing Board member Amy Bhola.

Special Presentations:

- Teacher Beth Horn: She has been teaching for 30 years at OGMS and spoke words of gratitude for the FFO's dedication and hard work. She highlighted how students still talk about their 8th grade promotion years later. She's thankful for being fed and especially the supportive community the FFO provides.
- Student Bridget Walters: Buffelgrass is an invasive species harming the ecosystem. It brings a higher risk of fires, prevents saguaros from growing, and competes with many native plants. She will have flyers for students re: this topic. A Pull to remove them will be on Feb. 15th from 9am-11am. There will be a sign up on AZ Sonoran Desert website.

Principal's Update: Mark Rubin-Toles:

- Students met their goal of over 2,000 Pawsitive Panther tickets for 2nd quarter and voted that Mr. RT shave his hair which explains his bald head today. Teachers are acknowledging students with valuable feedback; the program continues to be an ongoing success.
- Prospective family open house is tonight to help transition for new parents coming into OG.
- Jan 30th will be the Falcon Fly in for 8th graders at the high school and Panther Prideland for 5th graders here. Both are to help smooth the transition by building familiarity for students.
- In February, there will be visiting scholars from China working with Mandarin classes on crafts such as calligraphy, etc. OG is a partner with the Confucius Institute and will partner with one school for collaboration and hopefully future travel between the two. Update submitted via email that the students from China will not be visiting due to the risk of the coronavirus.
- Spring break and AZ merit are coming. Thanks to new funding OG now has enough computers for all students to be on at the same time to reduce a third of the number of days that testing requires.
- OG is looking to expand ZAP program into lunchtime in addition to Wed mornings to help students get the work done. Parents can set alerts on ParentVue for missing assignments.

Executive Team Updates:

- President: Read excerpts from the principal's letter re open positions on FFO Exec. and possibility of suspending FFO if positions not filled. Please consider taking on one of these roles now so you can transition smoothly with current people. Exec is willing to meet with anyone to talk more in depth and also encourage all to reach out in their own networks.

- Treasurer: Reports were handed out. Benefit Mobile's income is steadily moving upward. Teachers are requesting reimbursements. There's one more book fair to go. Please make 8th grade promotion donation if you have an 8th grader.
- Panther Pride Direct Donations: Big thank you - we hit our Panther Pride goal! Special Project budget item (MPR projector) though means still almost \$2,000 short to hit that goal which is a portion of the total cost. Also, Exec is fun and time well-spent.
- Grants: No new grants. FFO received nice thank you letter and pictures from the art students and teachers for the screen printing event.
- Secretary: Please sign in and subscribe to newsletter that came out Tuesday.

General Business

- Approve minutes – Motion seconded and approved for November minutes.
- Community Schools: 8th graders have option for summer health/PE (3 hours each) class; registration is in Feb. for the Monday to Friday class. Make sure you have login info ready beforehand. Quarter 4 registration is sometime in Feb. Sports has game schedule on Google calendar that will sync with your account. They are working on summer Camp Foothills now.
- Committee Reports:
 - 8th Grade Promotion: Any parents who want to help can join these committees. Sign ups will go out for all areas that need help. Roxan O. will chair the dance. Amanda S. will chair the cookie reception after the ceremony. Olivia S will chair the ice cream social on that following Wednesday. Portraits are on March 19th in the morning only for those who have ordered them. We need 2 parent volunteers for that morning. Donations of \$20 for promotional costs can be made on FFO Square store. Parent breakfast 7:45am in March will be a meeting re: all promotion info.
 - Book Fair: March 9-13th will be the dates. More details are coming.
 - Bus driver appreciation: Kate will head up. This is an annual event of appreciation with cards for kids to sign. All schools and drivers come together in April for this.
 - Family support: Thanks to committee for helping families in need over the holidays.
 - Hospitality: We need hosts especially in March for next 8th grade parents breakfast. These are donations of coffee and pastries.
 - Lunch Volunteers: We really need more lunch volunteers. It's the best way to spend time on campus in middle school. Staff can take a break with parents helping to monitor. Sign up is online.
 - Community Cards/Benefit Mobile: AJ cards make great gifts and FFO gets portion of sales.
 - Dine Outs: Friday, March 13th at Fiamme Pizza will be the Great Takeaway on last day of book fair and during college basketball games. It will go all day from 11:30-9 which is a half day at the school because of conferences. Percentage of sales will go to FFO.
 - Staff Appreciation: Abby does an amazing job of different things each month. Next is dinner tonight because of the open house that staff attends. Next is little treats for Valentine's day. If you're interested in helping this committee, please email FFO so that Abby can put you on list.
 - Student Action Committee: Campus beautification is on Jan 29th after school doing general jobs around campus. Sign up link is available, but people can still come even if not signed up.

- CFSD Foundation: Main goal is to attract and retain quality teachers. TOY nominations are in, and recognition brunch will be on April 26th. The semi-annual foundation donation to the district was \$75,000 and given in December.

District News: Next meeting for district FFO will be at OG on Feb 6th.

Other news: Anyone interested can stay after the meeting for an informal grassroots conversation re district class size.

Upcoming Events:

- Jan 23 - Staff appreciation dinner
- Jan 23 - Parent palooza 5:30-6:30
- Jan 29 - Campus beautification
- Jan 29 - Future Falcon open house 5:15 - 7:15
- Jan 30 - Panther Prideland (5th graders) and Falcon Fly-In (8th graders)
- Feb 27 - FFO Meeting

Next FFO Meeting: Feb 27th

Meeting adjourned at 9:47am.