

Orange Grove General FFO Meeting Minutes Thursday, February 18, at 8:30 a.m.

Present via Zoom: Mark Rubin-Toles, Leslie Beckett, Jeannette Hartshorne, Allison Corkey, Alex Mastroangelo, Jennie Buban, Steven Kelly, Tim Colson, Michelle Thompson, Jennifer Ford, Bianca Rowley, Jennifer Peters, Michelle Ijams, Kristin Doran, Lucy Young, Jessica Scott, Heidi Williams, Teresa Sommers, Abbe Goncharsky, Mary Mokhtarian, Jason McK, Jessica Brandt, Kavita, Kristin Doran, Stefanie S, Dayna Anderson, Candace Geary, Ali Berghthold, Celia Bavier, Jenny Dessent, Lina Haddad, Roxan Olivas, Angel Stephens, Dawn Armstrong, Deepa, Jill Tronziger, Holly Leonard, Erin Toponce, Debbie Anderson, Schavolla, Keeley, C. Siegler, Atasha Jaffe, Tanya Martin

Meeting called to order by President Alex Mastrangelo at 8:30am.

Principal's Update: Mr. Rubin-Toles

- Student Led Conferences (SLC's) are coming up. 8th graders are doing a new format this year: telling the stories of themselves as learners. Families will receive an invite to a scheduled SLC; all will be remote. If time doesn't work, you can email the teacher and set up different time that does. All kids are expected to participate and present to a responsible adult.
- Next week for Rodeo Break: Cohort A will come on Monday, Cohort B will come on Tuesday, and all will be asynchronous on Wednesday with advisor base meeting.
- OG will start taking attendance differently for in-person learners. If student is not in-person when they committed to being in-person, they will be marked absent unless isolating or quarantining if they feel well enough to come to remote. This is partly not to deny a spot to those who want to come back to in-person (OG had to deny a couple requests) and being able to maximize school capacity.
- AZ Merit and AZSci tests are scheduled for right after Spring Break. OG is required to do state testing and these tests provide an important piece of data for this year such as measuring learning loss during this challenge time of learning. It will hopefully shed light on how to bring everyone back up to same levels when they are able to resume in-person full time. The schedule is complex because of mitigation plans and working with school capacity. Cohort A will test on a Tuesday and Cohort B on a Thursday with 2 Wednesdays for remote learners to come in and test. Later down the line there will be a Tuesday and Thursday that cohorts will stay home and remote learners will come in just for testing. The goal is for 95% of students to take them. AZSci is a new test (new curriculum this year) measuring new state standards for science.

Executive Team Updates:

- Treasurer: Jeannette Hartshorne - Budget report was shared in chat.
 - Income: \$23,015.82. Checks came in from Benefit Mobile, Chick-Fil-A, Panther Pride, and more recently 8th grade promotion donations.
 - Expenses: \$25,049.16. Main expense was paying off the shade structure. Thanks to all who made donations. Other expenses were reimbursements to teachers and one of the grants that was approved last meeting. We are now into our reserves as predicted. We will still have some future revenue with Panther Pride, another Dine Out, Benefit Mobile, and AmazonSmile.

- Panther Pride Direct Donations: Dayna Anderson - The shade structure construction work will start during Rodeo Break. Contractors involved are in-district families. This is a huge task; many thanks to the community for its support.
- Grants: Michelle Ijams - Art teachers have requested funding for a fiber arts project for all almost 300 art students. Bisbee artist Mark Logan will talk about his craft (stuffed animals) virtually with students. Students will pick a pattern, sew, and embroider a project. There is only \$50 left in grants. The initial total was \$880, but they changed the felt and reduced it to \$500. The art department still had their \$250 department funds, and one teacher still had her own funding of \$200, so FFO grants can cover the last \$50 for the art students to do this project.
- Secretary: Leslie Beckett - Newsletter link was shared in chat as well as email to receive suggestions from community of what they would like to read in monthly digest. Renaming Zoom account to include first and last name helps with attendance record keeping.

General Business

- Approve minutes – January minutes shared in chat. Moved and approved to accept the January meeting minutes.
- Special Fundraising Project Update: With this new structure measuring 36x 34 feet, 1600 square feet of space is being added to the courtyard's north side. The structure will attach to some buildings and also have post in a planter (no space taken in walkways). The design has been well thought out. It's exciting to have a confirmed start over Rodeo Break and up before the weather gets hot.
- Motion to Approve Grant: Moved and approved to accept and fund \$50 Grant request for art project presented today.
- Committee Chair Updates:
 - 8th grade promotion: Mary Mokhtarian - She is gathering information from the school for parameters and expectations of what is allowed. She is hoping to combine some on and off campus ideas (eg. swag bags/boxes sent for remote via Zoom with those who can do in-person outside and socially distanced). FFO budget is \$2000, but if 8th grade families donate more than that it could raise the budget to \$2500. She will send an email to parents who expressed interest in planning and go forward from there, and she shared her contact info in chat for those who would like to join. (Someone suggested surveying the 8th grade parents.) She also plans on getting input from a student committee. She is hoping for an in-person option and noted that the High School is having an in person event. Mr. Rubin-Toles is open to ideas of in-person and really committed to something for all kids to be able to participate.
 - Dine Outs: Allison Corkey - Chick-Fil-A drive through only event brought in \$232 and went well. It was the first time CFA had done this as a drive through without dining-in option event. They had a quick turnaround with sending funds. The next Dine Out will be on Tuesday, March 9th at Chipotle on Wetmore. Chipotle offers a generous 33% return on sales. Online ordering definitely counts. OG's unique promo code is on the flyer.

- Communications: Tim Colson - He suggested posting upcoming meeting agenda and the minutes in the newsletters. (Meeting minutes are available on the FFO website.) Communications chair is opening next year since his student is in 8th grade; anyone interested can email Alex.
- Staff Appreciation: Jessica Brandt - Thanks everyone for your support. This month had a successful heart-shaped bagel breakfast last week. March's event is TBD. In April, there will be a National Grilled Cheese day lunch catered from SFE. In May, there will be a "Raffle a Day" when 20 gift cards will be needed, so look for a sign up to come. The school year will conclude with a nice lunch.
- Foundation: Roxan Olivas - CFSD Foundation raises supplemental funds to attract and retain quality teachers throughout the district. Teacher of the Year (TOY) and distinguished educators for 2021 winners were selected and recently announced; congrats to those teachers. Thanks to all who submitted nominations. There will be a virtual celebration for this year and more info on that is coming. Thanks to those who donated at the end of year week of giving which was successful.
- Questions: Q: Why have I stopped receiving classroom weekly updates? A: Send last update to Mr. Rubin-Toles and he can help figure it out.
- Q: Concern expressed re: OG becoming a dog park with unleashed pets and animal waste left on grounds. A: This is an ongoing challenge that is heightened with the pandemic. State law and county ordinance says dogs have to be leashed, and they are ordering new signs to post. Mr. Rubin-Toles enforces when he can, but it is challenging to enforce after hours without staffing. County sheriff's office is more than happy to come when needed to assist in enforcement. He also asks community to help enforce and keep OG a good place to be. They had tried to forbid all dogs before, but only more responsible owners abided and less responsible owners still would not. Thus ban felt like it was harming relationship with those who are supportive and not really solving the problem. OG wants to provide a space for the community in appreciation of support and partnership.
- Q: Is there a way to know stats on teacher vaccination? A: Most staff who have wanted it have at least received one dose. Overall the process has been positive and encouraging. Follow up Q: Is there ongoing discussion to get more students in-person more? OG wants kids on campus for learning but does not have capacity right now to combine the cohorts. Numbers vary by classrooms, a majority of which would be too many for physical spacing if following mitigation plans. Right now it is not an option, not just for staff protection but also for community protection (kids and families). Currently the plan for August is to return to in person 5 days a week for all students, while considering offering a remote option depending on families' level of comfort. The trend is hopeful as more people in the community get the vaccine and case numbers go down.
- Comment made to commend Mr. Rubin-Toles and OG staff for being able to manage reopening school for students well immediately after the winter break.

Upcoming Events:

- Feb. 25th - 26th: Rodeo Break
- March 9th: Dine Out
- March 11th & 12th: SLC's
- March 18th: FFO Meeting

- March 22nd - 26th: Spring Break

Meeting adjourned at 9:20am.

Next FFO Meeting: March 18th