

## Orange Grove General FFO Meeting Minutes Thursday, April 15, at 8:30 a.m.

Present via Zoom: Jeannette Hartshorne, Leslie Beckett, Gina Mehmert, Dayna Anderson, Mark Rubin-Toles, Teresa Sommers, Carole Siegler, Liz Doak, Tracy Rea, Michelle Ijams, Jennie Buban, Jessica Brandt, Barbie Chang, Alex Mastrangelo, Ashleigh Kruk

Meeting called to order by President Alex Mastrangelo at 8:32am.

**Welcome Governing Board Members:** Carol Siegler congratulated OG on finishing another year in a remarkable way that demonstrated community strength.

### **Principal's Update: Mr. Rubin-Toles**

- OG is finishing the last official day of AZM2 and AZSci state testing today. It has been a remarkable effort with 162 remote learners coming in (53 did not), which is a high percentage. Kids will be pulled to finish make up tests that have to be done. OG was able to keep kids in small groups as needed with remote learners in a separated area maintaining 6 feet of distance. The school is looking forward to the data gained from these tests.
- This summer OG will be using federal COVID relief funds for a math academic support program by CFSD math teachers for 3 weeks in June and 2 weeks for 8th graders who are rising freshmen to prep those students for the coming year. Those who may need help to accelerate and engage in the next grade level's learning will be invited to participate. Invites will go out Friday. They will have small groups and cover a variety of problem solving, skills-based drills, conceptual work, etc. It is an exciting new structure that could hopefully continue beyond this summer.
- 8th grade promotion is coming up. OG is aiming to let 8th grade families know on Friday what time slot they will come in for their student's mini-ceremonies. FFO committee is planning a lot of other pieces of events for that week.
- Enrollment is going fairly well for OG, despite being somewhat lower district-wide. 655 students have registered so far. Registrations are critical for hiring staff, etc.
- Tours have expanded and OG is doing them every week. There was a successful open campus self-guided tour with 12 Panther Pals who came out to help. Those students did a great job overall, greeting, articulating school programs, and guiding prospective families so well. OG is looking to expand the Panther Pals program to include 7th graders and fill that gap for leadership opportunities. It was amazing to gesture to the shade structures and speak of FFO contributions to the school. Shade has brought comfort in the sun with a felt difference in temperature and heat. Thank you to Dayna and everyone for that gift to school.

### **Executive Team Updates:**

- Treasurer: Jeannette Hartshorne - Budget report was shared in chat.
  - Income: \$24,703.01. Chipotle dine out check, promotion donations, and Benefit/Frys revenue all came in this month.
  - Expenses: \$27,845.92. Teacher support and supplies for 8th grade legacy project went out.
  - There is a deficit now of \$3,143 which was expected with the pandemic. It still turned out to be an amazing year. We are really close to meeting our Panther Pride goal. Majority of the rest of the year expenses will be staff reimbursement and 8th grade promotion. Thank you to the community for your incredible support this year with

Panther Pride, shade structure, spirit wear, dine outs, passive fundraisers, and all the ways the community has supported the FFO.

- Panther Pride Direct Donations: Dayna Anderson - Thank you to everyone for helping to make this year memorable in a positive way. The teamwork has been great and the FFO community has done a phenomenal job with supporting the school and Mr. RT. We still managed to raise \$18,500 this year and are only \$150 short of total goal, so an incredible feat with COVID-19 happening. Keep getting the word out that it is not just the money, but about helping make the school wonderful and allowing students to have the best time they can have.
- Grants: Michelle Ijams - All grants money has been spent! Good job to everyone this year for supporting the staff in this way.
- Secretary: Leslie Beckett - Newsletter link was shared in chat. Thank you to everyone who submitted information to help keep the community informed every month. Feel free to share suggestions for content.

### **General Business**

- Approve minutes – March minutes shared in chat. Moved and approved to accept the March meeting minutes.
- Special Project Shade Structure update: Dayna shared an updated 360 picture of the completed structure showing the large amount of shade created, the size of a house or about 3650 sq. ft. There are also future possibilities for other shade structures with sun safety awareness that has increased in the schools. One tree in the courtyard is dying, so that area could be next and plans for a white shade have already been thought of for the future.
- New positions for open Committee chairs next year:
  - Communications: Tim has been wonderful serving as chair for several years. This involves making sure our electronic messages go out well. If you or someone you know has a technology background and would like to put that skill to work for the FFO, please talk to Alex.
  - Dine Out: Allison is leaving OG, too. Dine outs are an important part of what we do. Most restaurants have people set up to do them, so it's easier to set up now than before. There is usually a good showing from the school with records broken this year. It has huge potential for fundraising and provides a good part of the budget. It involves coordinating with restaurants and getting the message out to the community. Spread the word to anyone who may be interested in this easy but essential position and have them connect with Alex.
- Committee Chair Updates:
  - Book Fair: Liz Doak - Spring book fair starts this Monday, April 19th and goes through May 2nd. It is virtual again. Shop with the link that was sent out in the newsletter and Picks of the Week. An email will go out as well. Teachers will be contacted to see if they would like to create a wish list. If so, Liz will pass them along to families.

- 8th grade promotion: Things are moving forward and the kids are excited. Mini-ceremonies are being scheduled and teachers are wanting to send off students with a car parade. Mary is doing a great job with her planning team. Flyers are ready to go out. There is a suggested donation of \$20 for each 8th grader. They are looking at live music for the car parade, photo booth, and maybe a Pedro appearance. Suggestion brought up about asking donations from 6th and 7th grade families as pay it forward like with volunteering; this could be considered in the future.
- Staff Appreciation: Tracy Rea and Teresa Sommers will be doing teacher appreciation next year and are looking forward to it. Jessica has oriented them on the duties. May raffle still needs some gift cards that can be dropped off at the front office. Sign Up Genius for the raffle was shared in the chat.
- Other News: Barbie is switching to Grants with Michelle switching to DFFO for next year's Exec board. Thanks to Alex and everyone working together during this year. There is always a great group of volunteers who carry and pass the torch from school to school, and we look forward to next year with current and new volunteers!

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- April 19 - May 2: Book fair

Meeting adjourned at 9:20am.