

Orange Grove General FFO Meeting Minutes **Thursday, January 20, at 8:30 a.m.**

Present via Zoom: Dayna Anderson, Leslie Beckett, Alex Mastrangelo, Kate Spaulding, Michelle Ijams, Barbie Chang, Eileen Pastorious, Carole Siegler, Mark Rubin-Toles, Roxan Olivas, Susan Wright, Angel Stephens, Marla Harris, Liz Doak, Tanya Martin, Ann Lee, Abbe Goncharksy, Amy Courson, Anjala Matalone, Tracy Rea, Erin Toponce, Karin Fiore, Brian, Jen Peters, Jessica Brandt, Mandi Waldrup, Debbie Claggett, Carrie Altman, Emily Franklin, April, Erika Loreda, Deborah, Asher Amante

Meeting called to order by President Alex Mastrangelo at 8:35am.

Welcome Governing Board Members: Carole Siegler

Principal's Update: Mr. Rubin-Toles

- Keeping kids here on campus: Absences have been higher (had a couple days with 90 kids out), but are coming back to normal. With omicron surge, school is reinforcing correct mask-wearing with kids, who overall have done a fantastic job with this and keeping the school safe. District's test-to-stay program has been successful in helping keep kids on campus and manage exposure risk. Fully vaccinated students or those who have had COVID in last 90 days do not have to quarantine (if exposed, monitor for symptoms and wear mask for 10 days). All others can stay as long as they take serial tests with negative results (if positive results, they go home to isolate). Nurse and health assistant have put in fantastic efforts for this program and have had help from the district too. It's been an all hands on deck effort with the front office as well. Goal is to keep kids there as safely as possible following CDC and county health recommendations. Exciting news is that the district is rolling out volunteer program for test to stay help by filling slots (from 7-1 or 8-1) 4 to 5 days a week. It will involve video training and signing up via district website (link shared in chat) and would help with the daunting amount of documentation. If students are symptomatic, keep them home until negative test result can be obtained; kids can be tested curbside at school. 541 exposure have gone out so far.
- Bringing in new kids: Tonight is the OG open house for new and prospective families happening virtually on Google Meet. 5th graders from Manzanita and Sunrise are coming on campus on Feb. 8th and will cycle through classes. There is no assembly this year, but they will see samples of all the arts electives. This is open to any student not just Manzanita and Sunrise. There are also ongoing tours on Mondays and Wednesdays. There will be another self-guided tour day in early April with Panther Pals set up all across campus; families can walk around with maps and get familiar with OG. Course request forms will be out this week for preferences for arts class and world language (if already in, students can continue). School tries to give everyone first choice but program limits with staffing may not allow for this for all. Kids and families are asked to rank order choices (1-3). If students do not get their first choice, the school will keep track and give them priority for those choices if submitted on time.
- Moving kids up: Falcon Fly In for 8th graders will be on Feb. 8th. They will go to the high school, see a variety of different classes and offerings, eat lunch, watch slide show of the day, and get class T-shirts. This is another way to help kids envision themselves and get comfortable with the high school transition. Open house is Feb. 2nd; there will be a recording if families are not comfortable going on campus. Community Schools is doing a summer PE camp so kids can get their PE credits in the summer.

- Color Run event: Kids can still show up if not registered and purchase color packets and sunglasses there; just have them wear their own dyeable shirt. There are a total of 240 students registered.
- Spring Dance: Kids are voting on the theme. The four choices from student council are carnival, masquerade, cowboy, and movies. The dance will be in March (either March 10th or 11th when SLC's are) and will be held outdoors.
- 8th Grade Promotion: Mini-ceremonies had great positive feedback from last year. Since it would be hard to have one large ceremony while following current health guidelines, mini-ceremonies will continue this year. The plan is to hold 19 of them during the last 2 school days (that Monday and Tuesday). Families can choose ceremony time and hopefully be given their preferences. Each ceremony has a small group of kids receiving comments from teachers and staff for each child and goes relatively fast. There will be an outdoor dance and annual ice cream social in the safest ways to do those things.
- State Testing: AZ tests will be a little easier this year not having to have MPR full of remote students. OG is having a field test next Thursday of the new AASA writing test which requires learning a new software system. The field test is for practice and to help address any tech issues. The real tests are after spring break in April and currently on the OG website calendar. Optimizing brain health is important during that time (making sure students get enough sleep and exercise).
- SLCs: Students are about to embark on weekly meetings to prepare for their Student Led Conferences that will be on March 10th and 11th (half days) and virtual via Google Meet. Students will present their own learning and frame their experience as learners. Focus varies according to grade level (6th - individual pieces of work, 7th - trends across classes, and 8th - reflective of whole middle school experience as a story).

Executive Team Updates:

- President: Alex Mastrangelo
- Treasurer: Jeannette Hartshorne via Dayna - Budget report was shared in the chat.
 - Income: \$55,052.78. Income level has pushed us into needing a tax professional so if anyone would like to share their expertise, please reach out to Jeannette or in chat. Passive fundraising will be changing with Benefit Mobile closing down soon so use up your gift cards. We have almost reached our goals; we are a little under for Panther Pride but have had wonderful fund raising from other avenues especially the Special Project.
 - Expenses: \$34,909.47.
- Panther Pride Direct Donations: Dayna Anderson - Panther Pride is on a little break because the big Color Run event is underway. We are grateful for the community in supporting this event and please continue to get the word out regarding the Color Run.
- Grants: Barbie Chang - Grant request came from the World Language department by Mr. Tompkins for \$800 to complete the full library from novice to intermediate levels for each teacher to have their own set in their classrooms instead of just one shared by the entire department. This is for independent reading throughout the year in each of the classes.
 - Opened for discussion - none.
 - Moved and approved to accept the grant request.

- Secretary: Leslie Beckett - Minutes from November's meeting and latest newsletter links shared in the chat. Newsletter submissions from the OG community are always welcome. This position is open for next year and involves taking notes at monthly meetings and gathering info for monthly newsletter. If interested, please contact Leslie and shadowing/training can start this year. Email shared in chat.

General Business

- Approve minutes – November
 - Moved and approved to accept the November meeting minutes.
- Special Project Update: Mark Rubin-Toles reported that plans are moving forward. They had to make a slight design change, but not huge, and plan currently is to have the structure completed over Spring Break. There might be some supply chain issues, but the project is moving forward with Shade Industries, thanks to all of you.
- Committee Chair Updates:
 - Color Run: Dayna Anderson - We are thankful and excited for all 240 participants registered for this community-building event on a really fun course. Please sign up to volunteer (SignUp Genius shared in chat). Volunteers can help prep T-shirts on Wednesday evening and/or help on the day of the event by setting up stations and throwing powder.
 - Staff Appreciation: Teresa Sommers - In December the committee held a Soup-er lunch for the staff. Many parents helped bring in different soups and desserts for lunch; there was great feedback and leftovers for the staff. In January the committee focused on some self-care for the staff and found lip balms good for the winter month. Kuumba made a complete generous donation for this; they are a local company and have many natural products. February will have a special treat. March and May will have meals again, so stay tuned for sign ups for those.
 - CFSD Foundation: Roxan Olivas - The Foundation raises supplemental funds to attract, retain, and develop teachers in the district. The goal for this year is \$150K; currently have raised \$73K so half way there. Semi annual gift of \$50K was presented in December to the district for Great Beginnings program for professional learning. TOY voting is in, and winners will be announced in Feb. with signs at the schools. They are planning a special event in the spring for that with more details to come. Special thanks for those who have donated; the end of year push and giving day raised \$30K.
 - Bus system has an app now to track routes. It has been up for a few months and is pretty reliable although sometimes a route doesn't show (especially on late-start Wednesdays). Mr. RT will get it in Picks to inform parents that it is available. First View is the name of the app and parents need the school name and student ID number to create an account.

Upcoming Events:

- January 20th - OG Open House
- January 28th - Color Run
- Feb 2nd - CFHS Open House

- February 17th - FFO Meeting
- February 24th & 25th - Rodeo Break

Meeting adjourned at 9:21am.