

OGMS FFO General Meeting

Minutes

February 15, 2024

Present (in person): Kate Spaulding, Mark Rubin-Toles, Karin Fiore, Angela Appel, Jill Tronzigner, Michelle Rooney, Julie Bowden, Anjala Matalone, Laura Logue, Lilian Schwartz, Celine Cohn, Samantha Russell, Jeannette Hartshorne, Sasha Flores, Ann Lee, Teressa Sommers, Mary Grodman

Present (Online): Jennifer Yau, Jeni Wright, Barbie Chang

Meeting called to order at 8:35am by Kate Spaulding

Principal's Update: Mark Rubin-Toles

- Lots of January and February events at the school.
 - 8th-Grade students had a great time on their Falcon Fly-In. There was a lot of excitement about the lunches and class options at the high school.
 - 5th-grade students visited Orange Grove and were treated to an assembly with student performances.
- Registration is now happening! Please spread the word since early registration helps secure appropriate staffing.
- Student-Led Conferences are approaching. Invitations will be sent out to families with the default being an in-person conference. Teachers have observed that in-person conferences provide for a richer and more meaningful discussion. A virtual option will still be available.
- Next Monday and Tuesday is our Science Olympics. We would love parents to sign-up to volunteer to be a judge and help acknowledge these kids' successes.
- There are lots of items currently in our Lost and Found. Please take a look!
- Donations of tissues are especially needed this time of year. Also needed are gym shorts and sweat plants (all sizes). The clothing items are helpful to have when we have students who don't meet dress code.
- The Spring Dance is March 15th for all Orange Grove students. This is a half day, so students will need to leave campus and come back for the dance from 3-5pm. The dance is free for students and being supported by student council. Kids will be voting on a theme: Black & White, Paris or Tropical.

Executive Reports

- **President Report** (Kate Spaulding)
 - None
- **Treasurer Report** (Jeannette Hartshorne)
 - Jeannette handed out the latest budget vs. actuals for the year.
 - Income is at \$36,968.56. So far have been able to meet or exceed our budgeted income. Color run brought in \$6,980. Promotion donations are coming in and the special project has now started.
 - Expenses are at \$24,233. Staff reimbursements and department funding is ongoing. We still have more to spend down in this area with plans to redistribute funds before the end of the year so all the money will be spent.
 - \$2,000 is still available in grants.
 - As a reminder, we are spending down our savings this year. Budget has us spending \$8,000 from savings. We should be keeping about 20K in savings to cover half a years expenses.

- **VP Fundraising** (Laura Logue)
 - Have done great with Panther Pride.
 - Starting to get the word out about the Special Project. Considering some fun and creative ways to raise funds for the PE equipment. Loose change challenge and Principal's challenge.
 - Local gyms could be a great resource for funding. Consider asking those you have a connection with for a donation (not a sponsorship).
- **Grants Report** (Barbie Chang)
 - No new grants
 - With \$2,000 still available we are encouraging people to submit a grant for this year.
- **DFFO Rep** (Michelle Ijams)
 - None
- **Grade Level Reps** (Jeni Knight, Georgia Thu, Angela Appel)
 - None
- **Secretary Report** (Karin Fiore)
 - None

General Business

- **Approval Of Minutes**
 - **Motion:** To approve minutes from the January 25, 2024 FFO meeting. Second received.
Approved.
- **Committee Reports**
 - **8th Grade Promotion** (Michelle Rooney)
 - Michelle shared that this year's theme will be "golden". The committee would appreciate help with decorations. Be on the lookout for a sign-up genius for volunteers.
 - **Color Run** (Anjala Matalone, Deborah Ardolino)
 - Parent feedback was collected with the following comments:
 - Advertised start time may need to be adjusted to allow window for kids to register, pick up packets and shirts.
 - First aid station would be nice.
 - Students may not have known the plan for awards and how many laps they needed to be completed.
 - Could separate kids that are "racing" vs. doing a fun run/walk.
 - Move the starting line so kids can spread out a bit going through gate to avoid injuries.
 - Check points to count laps could be setup for those wanting to be eligible for a top finisher award.
 - A big thanks to this committee for all their work and a successful fun event!
 - **Dine Out** (Marta Bustamante)
 - Kate reminded everyone that our next dine out is at Charro Chico on Feb 20th.
 - **Foundation Liaison** (Sam Russell)
 - We had a great fall event and are continuing to fundraise to meet our goal.
 - Teacher of the Year winners have been announced.
 - Kylie Baker (Manzanita) and Casey Virgil (Esperero)
 - Distinguished educators include: Mary Florek, Devon Inglee and Noah Mickey-Coleman.
 - Award dinner is planned for April 28th at Skyline Country Club. Volunteers are needed. See foundation website to sign-up.

- Only eight teachers were able to be considered this year. This does not equate to the number of teachers nominated, but rather those that applied. There were no Orange Grove teachers that applied.
- Mark Rubin-Toles shared that teachers who are nominated really feel honored and value their nomination.
- **Staff Appreciation** (Teresa Sommers)
 - Sign-up for our March 15th Staff Appreciation Baked Potato Bar.
 - February 14th was a Valentines Staff Appreciation with lots of varieties of oreo cookies.
- **Community Schools** (Mary Grodman)
 - Mary reported on the many programs being offered. Check the community school's website for more information and registration dates.
 - Summer Health/PE has opened and is filling up quickly. It is recommended to add your name to the waitlist once classes are full.
 - Summer camp information is on the website. Registration will open March 13th.
 - Lots of Rodeo Break, Spring Break and Half- Day offerings. Some of the programs include: birding, hiking, geocaching, camping and a visit to Joshua Tree National Park.
 - Quarter 4 sports registration will open March 4th with practice starting March 18th. We are in good shape for coaches.
 - 4th quarter enrichment could use a few more instructors.
 - Year Books are still available online. Pay \$45 to reserve your copy, there are only 100 left.
- **Upcoming Events**
 - Kate reminded everyone of our upcoming FFO events
 - Next general meeting is March 21st, 8th grade families will be meeting at 7:45 before the meeting to talk about promotion
 - Tanner Clark presentation will be April 17th. Time is still TBD.
 - Dine out at Charro Chico on Feb 20th
 - Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast, before our April 25th FFO meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 9:15am