

Orchard Elementary PTO

Meeting Minutes

October 17th, 2019

- I. **Call to Order** – President Sarah Landon called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm
- II. **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from the last PTO meeting were reviewed. Cat Roberts moved to approve the minutes as written. Alysia Arsanto seconded the motion.
- III. **Treasurer’s Report** – Jon Hall presented the treasurer’s report, showing a current balance of \$12,737.78. Jon is meeting with a CPA next week, as our PTO deals with a larger amount of money per year than when it was formed. The CPA will also review our books from the previous years. Jon requested that someone who is not a signer on our bank account review our monthly checking account statements. Kathy Preszer volunteered. Documentation for ‘donations in kind’ was discussed.
- IV. **Principal’s Report** – Alysia Arsanto stated that we have considerably more student enrollment this year and the number keeps climbing. She recognized the teachers for their incredible efforts this year as new curriculums and trainings have been added. iReady testing is completed and scores will be available in November, as well information about how to read and use the new information. Kindness & Unity Week will happen next week, with special recognition for a kinder student in our Life Skills class that has Rett Syndrome. Cards will go home with photos of her and an explanation for families about Rett Syndrome. The IDEA Project assembly will happen Monday morning for all students, kindness cards will be given and leadership students will speak at lunchtime. Veteran’s Day assembly will be held on November 8th. A deep freeze unit has been requested for the school. Food has been going home on the weekends with students who may face food insecurity. We need a larger and dedicated place to keep these frozen meals. In addition, a snack food drive will be held to further meet this need.
- V. **Teacher Representative Report** – Kathy Preszler reported that the students participated in earthquake drills today. The Veteran’s Day writing challenge letters are due on October 23rd, with Veteran photos due on the 25th. AYP is close to selecting a book for One Book One School, which will take place in January. They would like financial support from the PTO to purchase books for each family. Another financial request was made in the amount of \$300-\$500 for take-home books for a new kinder teacher.
- VI. **Committee Reports**
 - a. **Chess Club** – Mitra Rado is our new chess advisor. 4 5-week sessions of an Intro to Chess class will be held, starting next week. Chess Club for more experienced players will begin in January and will be held in the evenings to increase parent involvement.
 - b. **Box Tops** – Tara Symons has sent collection materials and flyers to the teachers. They are due on October 30th. She will need help clipping to meet the deadline of November 1st.
 - c. **Spirit Wear** – The spirit wear has arrived! It will be distributed next week. NOT SO FAST, you people who ordered glitter shirts. The smaller sizes are backordered until Christmas. There will possibly be another chance for ordering in the spring.

- d. **Hospitality** – Custodial staff were given an appreciation gift this month and a candy corn game with a gift card prize will be held for teachers.
- e. **CLT/ILT** – Danica Garcia is the PTO representative to this school committee.
- f. **Book Fair** – Rebecca Boyd reported that the fall book fair made \$13,889 worth of sales, which brought in \$7639 in Scholastic Dollars, much of which is spent in the library. The PE and Art departments have also benefited from the Scholastic Dollars, and bookshelves for the lobby will be purchased with this money and supplies for the Owl's Nest. Shirley Falls reported that there are thank you notes to the PTO in the display case. The spring book fair is set for April 17-24.

VII. Old Business

- a. Jog-a-Thon – A few more volunteers are needed. It was discussed how to help students manage or conquer a fear of Talon. A deconstructed Talon will be in the kinder pod in the morning so that students who have a need can increase their Talon-comfort.
- b. Science on Wheels – This will take place on November 12th and 13th. The theme for the year is Space Odyssey and will feature planetariums in the commons, as well as classroom activities and hands-on elements in the gym.
- c. Baking Club – Alysia will touch base with a parent of the girls who presented the idea.
- d. Pokemon Club – CJ Rodriguez reported that 39 kids are currently in the club, with limited space available in sessions 4 & 5. If kids are caught with Pokemon cards out at school, they will lose the privilege of being in the club.
- e. LEGO Club – CJ Rodriguez reported that two sessions will be held for grades K-2nd. The club will meet in the Owl's Nest November 7-December 12th and second session will meet from January 9-February 20th.

VIII. New Business

- a. **REACH Mini Museum** – Parents have reached out to tell us that the REACH has a traveling mini-museum that is available for events.
- b. **Kindness & Unity Week** – Volunteers are needed for stations during the IDEA Project.
- c. **Skate Parties** – We are looking for a lead person to head up the skate parties at The Rollarena. This person will be responsible for ordering and distributing flyers and for counting students at the party.

IX. Questions or Comments

- a. **School Board Candidates** – Kari Williams and Rama Devagupta were in attendance. They were introduced and stayed after the meeting to answer questions and talk with voters.

X. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 4:18 by Sarah Landon

Those in attendance:

Sarah Landon	CJ Rodriguez
Kriste Colley-Kummer	Jon Hall
Tammy Morrow	Kathy Preszler

Cat Roberts

Kari Williams

Susan Duncan

Danica Garcia

Chris Spiegel

Shirley Falls

Jillian Robillard

Alysia Arsanto

Jill Gilbert

Zandra Zupan

Mitra Rado

Tara Symons

Jana Mapes

Rama Devagupta

Rebecca Boyd

Lauren Gradin

Jenna Bensussen

Sarah Hall