

Orchard Elementary PTO

Meeting Minutes

January 13th 2022, 6:00 pm, via Zoom

- I. **Call to Order** – Danica Garcia called the meeting to order at 6:08pm
- II. **Approval of Minutes**—November minutes were approved as is.
- III. **Treasurer’s Report** – Jon Hall reported on the banking activity from November and December. The main income from November was the money coming from the Jogathon. This was \$31,010.75. There were minor expenses in November that included an expense from Jogathon and two curriculum grants. In December, our income came from a Dorian rebate, Fred Meyer’s rewards, Boeing grant and Giving tree Donations. Expenses included PTO donation to Giving tree, CPA fees, and a teacher appreciation hot cocoa bar. December ended with \$69,1110.68 in the account.
- IV. **Principal’s Report** – Mrs. Arsanto addressed a few questions that came from Facebook. There was concern over the amount of COVID and the change in the way cafeteria seating was done. Mrs. Arsanto assured everyone that they are adhering to the BFHD guidelines and RSD. A parent requested that additional tables be provided due to apparent social distancing problems at lunch. Mrs. Arsanto said that can be done. Students do also have the option of social distancing more than 3 feet if they wish. They are continuing to social distance and mask. Exposed students are being given the option to test to stay in school. This helps these students not miss school due to quarantining. There have been issues obtaining substitutes from time to time. Try to keep classes together but sometimes it becomes necessary to breakdown a class. This means students from that class go to other classrooms in that grade. Students seem to be flexible to this and enjoyed being in another classroom. High-CAP deadline is February 14th. The referrals for this program is parent driven. Some Orchard families are affected by the boundary changes. Any appeals can be done by submitting a form that can be found on the school districts website. Mrs. Arsanto does not have say in this and request are not automatically approved. RSD usually waits until

the end of the school year and looks at enrollment numbers. Reading and math testing is coming up for 1st through 5th. Mrs. Arsanto encourages parents to always ask if they have questions.

There has only been indoor recess due to weather. Always check school district website and your e-mail for any late starts and closures. Children will line up outside always unless weather an issue. Temperature below 20 degrees which wind chill taken into account will warrant indoor line up.

She was also asked about availability of KN95 masks for school. Mrs. Arsanto said they are available. Most of the staff shortages are due to people changing careers but most notably Janet Folhr just retired. A replacement has been found and is being trained. She was asked if there was anything that can be done to help from the parents. Mrs. Arsanto just said to reach out to the student's teacher. Right now they are trying to limit the amount of people in building. Volunteers are still allowed but are limited. She was also asked about the threshold of having to go to virtual learning? Mrs. Arsanto said that is a RSD call and she does not know the answer.

V. Committee Reports

- a. Hospitality** – Pam reported the teachers were treated to a hot cocoa and cookie bar in December. The staff was also given gift cards to Kozy Kup. Before holiday break, a sign was put outside the school so families and staff could take pictures. A hot potato bar mabe done at the end of January. May ask families to sign up and participate in this one. The Favorite things sheet are on Facebook and families can see how they can treat their teacher or even staff members.
- b. Spring Auction** – This event was put forth to the group. This activity if even done will most likely be done in conjunction with the community building event. Tammy Morrow, Kinder teacher, says she loves this event and would love to do it. She was sad when the shutdown happened was not able to follow through with the winner of her auction item. She was talking for herself and would need to see what the consensus is from staff. Mrs. Arsanto said she would

ask if the Orchard staff is interested in participating this year. She stated that she always enjoys participating.

- c. **Yearbook** – Is a go this year. Per Danica’s conversation with CJ, the cover is already approved and the yearbook is coming along.

VI. Old Business

- a. **Playground Enhancement Ideas** – Mrs. Arsanto has a list of ideas that came from speaking with children in different grades. These ideas are at various price levels. She will be forwarding these ideas for the PTO for review. We have approximately \$3,600 to spend on this due to the Gaga ball pit not being approved by RSD.
- b. **Community Building** – We would like for this to happen sometime in May when the weather is more predictable and warmer. The silent auction if it occurs will most likely happen during this event. Thoughts were to have bounce house and other inflatables. Unfortunately, this is no longer allowed by the school district. The other thought was a movie night. Danica already called for pricing on a movie screen from a company based out in Yakima.
- c. **Boeing Grant** -- Orchard was again a recipient of the grant again this year. It was split again into \$250 grants. Three teachers submitted proposals and are being rewarded the grant.
- d. **Giving Tree** --- The giving tree served 8 or 9 families. There was a donor of Thanksgiving meals for the families in need. All recipients were appreciative of the gifts that were given especially since they came from families of the school. There was a question if a pantry needed to be started and kept stocked. Mrs. Arsanto said the school has been able to refer families to agencies that provide goods. At this time, it does not seem necessary.
- e. **Levies**—This was just informational. There are two levies: technology and educational operation. The money helps fund counselors, PE, art, drama, athletic programs and so much more. There is information on the RSD website and they will be having town halls. Ballots should be coming in the next few weeks.

VII. New Business

- a. **Gift requests/reimbursements**—The big gift request pending is Reading rangers. This is a computer program that can be tailored

individuals reading abilities. It challenges all levels and can dialed back or advanced depending on students level. This Program was brought to the membership to approved and was approved unanimously.

- b. Committee & Officer Recruitment--** We need to start looking at next year. Some committees will be losing their lead next school year. Also due to boundary changes PTO board members may be leaving and some board members terms are up. If any knows someone interested, let the board know.

VIII. Questions/Comments

- a. There were no questions.

IX. Adjournment – Danica Garcia adjourned the meeting at 7:09pm

In attendance: Jon Hall, Angela Kopenec, Danica Garcia, Tamara Morrow, Alysia Arsanto, Rochelle Holm, Stacy Hall, Eileen Harbertson, Steve and Pam Rothwell