

Meeting Minutes- **SITE Council**

Location: Zoom Meeting

Date: 9/19/2023

Time 3:35 PM

Attendance: Jen Waldron, Lori Soble, Sara Armstrong, Lincoln Luse, Michelle Moore, Brehan King, Kristen Kater, Trina Pensabene, Kristina Galuska, Paola Castro, Denise Smith

3:36 Meeting is called to order.

Celebrations: Jen Waldron would like to celebrate the book fair and the committee; it is going amazing! Perhaps we should reevaluate the meeting time since volunteers on the Site Council are currently driving home from the book fair. The members who worked at the bookfair are driving home to be on this call.

Next Jen asks everyone to review minutes. Vote to approve minutes from last meeting. Minutes are accepted.

Jen has some brief updates: we are in full gear with tons of events coming up. She has a few things she would like us to know, specifically about our school's **Continuous Improvement Plan** so the site council can review our school goals for the year. It is a lot of information, so we are going to start breaking it down into chunks.

Jen proposed approval for a \$1,000 stipend for third grade teacher, Ms. Charlton, to run a **Yearbook Club** where students will have agency over creating the yearbook. Jen asks for a motion to approve the yearbook proposal of 1,000 stipend for the teacher to support yearbook club. Motion passes. Having students create the yearbook will be great and will represent our student population with a more accurate picture.

Sara Armstrong shares IB information. Field trip request proposal shared. It has been updated with a second field trip for each class. See Sara Armstrong's spreadsheet for detailed information.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NCVkj6PIk92KiLFFbYjOU64tY8LJmpEXZqAaVkhZ4/edit?usp=sharing>

Jen thanks Site Council for seeing the importance of field trips and for all the support given. Site Council approved the following field trips: Kindergarten Great Arizona Puppet Theater Little Red Hen \$698; Kindergarten-Jungle Jill \$300; 1st grade Butterfly Wonderland \$1300; 2nd Grade Pioneer Living \$1450; 3rd Grade MIM \$500; 4th Grade-Liberty Festival \$2,000; 5th Grade-Taliesin \$1,200. Sara shared that 5th Grade will be going to the Earth and Space Expedition Center instead of the Science Center. The cost is \$306 less, for a total of \$1,550. Motion passed.

Sara Armstrong explains the expansion of our **community gardens**. She and the admin met today with the head of facilities gaining insight into information about irrigation and logistics. It will take a while to fully implement but it is very exciting.

Meeting Minutes- **SITE Council**

Location: Zoom Meeting

Date: 9/19/2023

Time 3:35 PM

Attendance: Jen Waldron, Lori Soble, Sara Armstrong, Lincoln Luse, Michelle Moore, Brehan King, Kristen Kater, Trina Pensabene, Kristina Galuska, Paola Castro, Denise Smith

Sara shares **Nov. 15 the AZIBS (Arizona I.B. Schools)** has a day of service planned and wants all IB schools to join in the day of service together. The focus is on Welcome to America Project, which according to their website is a nonprofit organization that “creates community connections and builds bridges of neighborly understanding by providing furniture, necessities, education, and additional resources to newly arriving refugees, offering a simple welcoming gesture, that lasts a lifetime. Our vision is to come together to create learning kits for WTAP, acting as a community outreach project. Students will also make welcome cards to pass to families. We anticipate Mountainside Middle School will join in this project.

Jen says we are excited to share wonderful PTO initiatives that highlight international mindedness, so happy to have their support.

Denise Smith shares community events.

Community Events

1. McCormick Stillman Railroad Park – “Railfair” celebrating everything railroad. September 30th from 10-5
2. McCormick Stillman Railroad Park – Halloween Spook-Track, October 6-31, book 1½ hour times from 6-7:30 or 8-9:30, tickets \$15
3. Schnepf Farms – Pumpkin and Chile Party from October 5-29
4. Chandler Octoberfest on September 10th from 1-8
5. Chandler Rockin Taco Festival September 23rd from 12-9
6. Arizona State Fair runs from September 22-29
7. Queen Creek Garlic Fest runs from September 16-24
8. Arizona Boardwalk is having a free Meet Superheroes, Ride and Zipline and More, September 30th from 10-2
9. Arizona Boardwalk is also showing a free movie “Coco” on October 7th from 5-8
10. Arizona Boardwalk is holding a free Halloween Arts, Crafts and Gift Show on October 14 and 15th from 10-4
11. MacDonald’s Ranch Annual Pumpkin Patch starts September 30 and runs to October 29, open 9-5

Jen Waldron notes that Site Council should start planning to meet in person instead of virtually because it is so important. Not sure why we are still meeting virtually, but it is important

Meeting Minutes- **SITE Council**

Location: Zoom Meeting

Date: 9/19/2023

Time 3:35 PM

Attendance: Jen Waldron, Lori Soble, Sara Armstrong, Lincoln Luse, Michelle Moore, Brehan King, Kristen Kater, Trina Pensabene, Kristina Galuska, Paola Castro, Denise Smith

to come together for these meetings and we can work out childcare and times to be conducive to meeting in person.

Jen shares our school and SUSD's Goal for attendance, we are having a big push for attendance for staff and students. Many reminders to all stakeholders about how important attendance is for schoolwide success. it is. Teachers are reaching out when multiple absences are happening. We are trying to make everyone aware of attendance guidelines and offering fun incentives such as a **Glowstick Dance Party** to classes having the highest attendance rate each month. We would like everyone to be more mindful about attendance.

Jen shares that Ms. Luse is stepping up to help with social media posts.

Jen would like us all to think about how to best spread the word about **Tax Credit donations**. Looking for ideas for promoting Tax credit money donations. How do we want to share the knowledge of tax credit? Jen shares an example from Navajo. The example explains what tax credit is and how it is used, why it is important. We are considering possibly sharing through kids thanking the public for sharing tax credit, so field trips are funded. We want the public to know what it is and what it goes to.

CIP Plan- Continuous improvement plan, Jen shares a document with an overview of what it is and how we can break it down. It goes over our goals as a district and a school. A big part of why we are here is academic excellence and rigor. Each meeting she will go over smart goals, action steps and timeline including ELL and Math, and culture and climate, community engagement, partnerships, working with community PTO and other stakeholders and how do we promote as a staff. We want to align with IB mission. She wants our input as well.

Trina: Shares exciting things that are going on. We have a lot of stuff going on: the Scholastic Book Fair is open to adults and families tomorrow. Book character day had a great turn out, almost every teacher was dressed up. The next General PTO meeting is 9/27 here on campus. Fundraising such as Dine out and Shop outs are posted. She is working on a calendar of events and a weekly newsletter every Sunday night talking about what is going on and what volunteers are needed. She has proposals for spring dates for different events. Currently planning events like **Spanish Game Night** celebrating Latino cultural celebration of life, bingo games, Spanish vocabulary with Mrs. Castro and helping is Abria, Paola and Sara.

Trina also notes that **Trekkers** is going to start in the beginning of October.

Meeting Minutes- **SITE Council**

Location: Zoom Meeting

Date: 9/19/2023

Time 3:35 PM

Attendance: Jen Waldron, Lori Soble, Sara Armstrong, Lincoln Luse, Michelle Moore, Brehan King, Kristen Kater, Trina Pensabene, Kristina Galuska, Paola Castro, Denise Smith

Trina shares the Carnival is scheduled for Dec. 1st which is a Friday and makes it possible for our Fountain Hills families to attend since their soccer club games are always Friday nights through Thanksgiving, that will be over so this works out making it inclusive for all. Mark calendars.

Trina shares information about a PTO membership drive with prizes as incentives. There will be a schoolwide push and promotions with a big poster thermometer gauging membership. Their goal is to have 75 percent of the families have PTO membership.

She mentions PTO is discussing an IB tie in for **Color Run. They are looking at** March 25th as the date. This day is the "*Holi* day of the full moon".

Jen mentions she thinks of this time of year as: "*Shocktober*" because the reality of school has hit, so many things happening.

She mentions paying attention to the Governing board meetings and to all do our best to focus on the positives.

Trina spoke about M and O money, and noticing there is not a lot of opposition to it.

M and O is an override that pays for people. What is new is that Scott Menzel says we can talk about facts on our campuses, not persuasion to vote as long as discussing facts. All PTOs are part of an initiative to share information about the importance of this override. Tamara Gold is getting educated on this so she can talk at the PTO meeting about it informing the details of this vote on the ballot. She will be sharing ideas about how to talk about the initiative in a non-persuasive way about what is going on. "People over things".

Sara thanks Lori Soble for taking notes for the meeting.

Next month the meeting will be in person.

Motion to close

Meeting adjourned.

Meeting Minutes- **SITE Council**

Location: Zoom Meeting

Date: 9/19/2023

Time 3:35 PM

Attendance: Jen Waldron, Lori Soble, Sara Armstrong, Lincoln Luse, Michelle Moore, Brehan King, Kristen Kater, Trina Pensabene, Kristina Galuska, Paola Castro, Denise Smith