

Sierra PTA General Meeting Notes
September 4, 2018
Sierra Cafeteria

1. 6:35 pm - Meeting called to order (Amy Nitta)
2. Principals' Report and Questions (Troy Brickley and Tennille Foerster)
 - Troy Brickley:
 - a. Construction is officially complete on the school building and grounds
 - b. Hug and Go
 - i. Still finalizing the layout, rocks will be placed to block cars from driving down the sidewalk
 - ii. There is a video on the school website that demonstrates the Hug and Go process
 - c. Question: Are dogs allowed on school playground after hours?
 - i. Dogs are not allowed on school grounds during school hours per Jeffco policy, however nights and weekends are unenforceable, dog owners bring their animals to the playground at their own risk after hours.
 - d. Extra Recess has been implemented for each grade level
 - i. Office referrals are way down for this time of year, this may be a factor.
 - e. Make Someone Smile
 - i. Staff was split into 8 teams, given \$50 and tasked with giving back to the community.
 - ii. A variety of good deeds were accomplished including: pizza deliveries to homeless people, flowers brought to nursing home residents, school supplies bought for students needing them, a blessing box filled with supplies, etc
 - Tennille Foerster:
 - f. PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention System)
 - i. The goal of this system is to positively reinforce students for expected behaviors
 - ii. ROAR (Responsibility Ownership Achievement Respect) are goal posts for students and help to explain expected behaviors throughout the school (classrooms, hallways, cafeteria, playground, bathrooms, etc)
 - iii. Students participated in a school passport lesson at the beginning of the year in which they toured the school and learned the expected behaviors for each area
 - iv. A flow chart has been implemented that helps all staff members take action for behavior issues
 - v. The administration is discouraging using losing recess as a consequence, instead recess choice will be limited to walking laps.
3. YMCA Update (Lennon Thompson)
 - a. For future PTA meetings if there are less than 5 kids needing care the YMCA will be unable to provide care

- b. Enrollment for after school care is still open
 - c. The YMCA is working on changing their behavior support systems, they are learning skills to teach expected behaviors instead of redirecting behavior
 - d. There is an opportunity for students 4th grade and higher to learn to snowboard through the Y and SOS Outreach
4. PTA Updates
- a. Committees (Amy Nitta for Keighly Appel)
 - i. Almost all of the committee chair positions are filled
 - ii. We will need people to fill the Board positions for next year, in order to train incoming Board members, the earlier people can commit the better
 - b. Membership (Leann Garcia)
 - i. So far we have 155 PTA memberships (35 are staff members)
 - ii. The directory will not be available until the district fixes the problems they have had with the Opt Out system
 - c. Community Events (Kim Nolte)
 - i. Chipotle night was very successful (\$687)
 - ii. Upcoming nights are Chick-fil-a on September 25th and Texas Roadhouse in October
 - iii. Two events for parents and students will take place this semester (Mom & Muffins, and Dads & Donuts), these are to help build community at Sierra
 - d. Fall Fundraiser (Amy Nitta)
 - i. We have about \$8000 raised so far
 - ii. People would like to know dates for prizes (events, etc)
 - iii. Parents would like to know the schedule for the day of the Sprint
 - 1. Information will be put in Friday folders and on the PTA website
5. PTA Budget Discussion (Lori Bass)
- a. Changes to Budget
 - i. General Field Day Fund - Line Item (Maria Peters):
 - 1. Proposal to create a line item for General Field Day Fund
 - a. 100 Mile Club (aka Running Club) is budgeted for \$500, but can be run for \$300 instead, Maria would like to use the remaining \$200 for the General Field Day Fund
 - b. Maria would like to remove the line item for Field Day Ribbons (\$150) and reallocate that money to the General Field Day Fund
 - c. This would mean that the General Field Day Fund would have \$350 going forward
 - 2. This year Maria would like to bring in the American Ninja Warrior Mobile Course to Field day for 3-5th graders
 - a. The cost is \$1000 for 6 hours
 - b. Maria would like to combine the \$350 from the General Field Day Fund with the \$400 allocated to her for Excel

Grants and she is asking for an additional \$250 to make up the difference

- c. Maria is offering to cover the additional \$500 for a warped wall addition from her personal funds
 - i. Motion brought by Troy Brickley to approve an additional \$500 to cover this expense was seconded and approved unanimously, later in the meeting.
- d. Motion brought to the floor, seconded and approved unanimously

ii. Do the Math - Line Item (Nicole Christen):

1. Would like to include a line item for "Do the Math"

- a. As there has been no interest from anyone to organize the Senior Dinner, Nicole is suggesting that we abolish that line item reallocate the \$300 to the Do the Math line item.
- b. In addition, Lori Bass proposes that we also abolish the Scholarships line item (\$1,000) and reallocate those funds to the Do the Math line item.
 - i. The Scholarships line item was used to pay into an area PTA fund that has not been used in the past 4 years.
- c. Nicole would also like to see this be a permanent line item going forward.
- d. Mr Brickley stated that if Amendment 73 passed, it would allow the school to fund this program, instead of relying on the PTA to do so.
- e. Motion brought to the floor, seconded and approved unanimously.

iii. Google Summit - Over and Above Grant (Amy Nitta for Christy Yacano):

1. Christy would like to send 13 staff members to the Google Conference, and would like to use the Over and Above Grant

- a. As the Over and Above Grant is only \$2,000, Christy would like to use some of the PTA surplus to pay for the remaining \$1,400.
- b. Mr Brickley stated that he has seen a difference between the other schools in the area and feels like it's beneficial.
- c. Motion brought to the floor, seconded and approved by a vote of 17 yays to 4 nays.

b. Policy Changes

i. Excel Grants (Amy Nitta)

1. There is no written rule about how to handle Excel Grants, although the standard practice has been to vote to approve at general meetings.
2. Last year the PTA received many requests for Excel Grants that needed to be approved before a general meeting was scheduled, so the PTA Board approved those requests.
3. Amy would like formal approval for the PTA Board to approve Excel Grants if there is no general meeting scheduled within the necessary time frame.
4. Concerns were brought up about this proposal:
 - a. How could we ensure that these decisions are transparent and maintain the wishes of the PTA body as a whole.
 - b. Many of these Grants are traditional in nature, could there be better planning or line items specifically for some of these programs.
 - c. Excel Grants amount to approx $\frac{1}{3}$ of the PTA budget, this is a lot of money to trust the Board to make unilateral decisions about.
5. Motion brought to the floor to approve allowing the PTA Board to approve Excel Grants if the time frame does not allow for a general meeting vote. If Excel Grants are approved in this manner, the Board will report at the next meeting. This motion was seconded and unanimously approved.
6. Approve Minutes from last meeting
 - a. Motion brought forward, seconded and unanimously approved
7. Miscellaneous
8. 7:50 pm - Meeting adjourned (Amy Nitta)