

Sierra PTA General Meeting
September 8th, 2022
Meeting Minutes

Sierra Elementary School Library and via Google Meet

- 1) Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by President Mary Zimbelman at 6:04 p.m.
 - a) Approve minutes from April 2022 meeting - President Zimbelman presented the meeting minutes from the last general membership meeting. Heather moved to approve the meeting minutes.
 - b) Dawn Schippe noted a mistake in the spelling of her name from the April 2022 minutes. The spelling was corrected since the minutes had not yet been approved.
 - c) VP of Membership Sheryl Doll motioned to push approval of the April 2022 minutes to the November 2022 general meeting to give the group of members attending the meeting online a chance to review the April 2022 minutes. There were no objections to this motion.

- 2) Principal's report and questions
 - a) Vice Principal Tennille Foerster has an update for the beginning of the year. The start of the year has been great. Sierra is starting a new math curriculum called Illustrative Mathematics. Very hands-on, real-world problems and exploring.
 - b) CMAS scores for last spring are in, and Sierra was in the top 20 for Jeffco ELA and top 10 for Jeffco math. Heather Flannery asked how third graders last year compared to the third graders from 3 years ago. Vice Principal Foerster responded that the data is not comparable because of the pandemic. However, based on the numbers, we have stayed consistent.
 - c) Dawn Schippe asked about Into Reading being the pilot last year. What is Sierra doing now that Into Reading is district wide. Most schools are doing Into Reading and Illustrative Math. Oberon is also piloting Into Reading.
 - d) A potential member asked what's the basis of Into Reading? Second Grade teacher Colleen Knight answered that science and social studies is embedded into the curriculum as well as other foundational skills.

- 3) YMCA update
 - a) A YMCA representative was not in attendance, so President Zimbelman gave the updates.
 - b) If parents have questions about YMCA email lthompson@denverymca.org
 - c) YMCA is hiring for all positions. Apply online at [DenverYMCA.org](https://denverymca.org)

- 4) PTA Updates
 - a) Treasurer Sarah Crawford presented the YTD report on a handout to the membership.
 - b) YTD Report - we have generated The Running Club dues are no longer a PTA expense.
 - c) Strides for Sierra 5k has already brought in a little income.

- d) We only do 2 big fundraisers: Strides for Sierra 5k in the fall and a Read-a-Thon in the spring.
 - e) A potential member asked about an amazon wish list for teachers. A supply area is in the works in the teachers' lounge so teachers can replenish extra supplies that teachers regularly run out of.
 - f) A financial audit of last year's finances is planned. If you would like to join please email treasurer@sierraptaarvada.org
- 5) Membership
- a) VP of Membership Sheryl Doll announced a Newsletter coming: This will be a great way to communicate upcoming fundraisers, photos, needs of the school, and updates on how last year's school gift is being said. That will be posted on Facebook, and sent from the Member Hub email.
- 6) Community Events
- a) VP of Community Events Lindsay Bunyard talked through our first few fundraisers of the 2022/2023 school year.
 - b) Restaurant night at Chipotle is September 21st. Flyers are going into Friday folders in the next few weeks. They won't do delivery but in-person orders or pick-up will go to the school. You must mention that you are part of Sierra or take in the flyer.
 - c) Sierra Night at Skate City is on October 12th. This is on a Wednesday night.
 - d) VP of Community Events Bunyard will be talking to a representative from Freedom Street Food Hall next week.
 - e) VP of Membership Sheryl Doll mentioned that there is a thread on Facebook where parents can suggest other businesses to partner with.
 - f) Fall Fundraiser: Strides for sierra 5K
 - (1) Volunteers will be needed. Information coming soon! Everything is going well. The committee is hoping to make it as fun as possible with less focus on the money. A DJ will be coming back. Vice Principal Tennille Foerster will announce the name of the runners as they cross the finish line. We will be adding a couple things to the lineup this year. There was a drawing for a Never Summer Industries snowboard. The first hundred people who registered are in the drawing. The race shirt contest winner will be chosen tonight and announced tomorrow September 9th. Same route as last year.
 - (2) There are lots of people who walk. Strollers. It's fun and inclusive. We are hoping for more neighborhood involvement.
 - (3) The timing will be based on gun time not the time your chip crosses the line.
 - (4) Maria Peters is heading up the volunteer committee.
- 7) Committees
- a) VP of Committees Becca Rehme noted the outstanding volunteer positions. Fifth Grade teacher Christi Cassady is the only one who still needs a room parent now.

- b) Snack signup will resume. Parents can sign up for the room parents through an email and the newsletter. And the Sign Up Genius will be in the newsletter and the PTA website.
 - c) What are some popular snacks with the teachers? Ms. Knight said a combination of healthy and junk food. The LaCroix went fast. And teachers seem to prefer 'Zero' soda, not diet. We should add drinks, not just food.
 - d) The total number of staff is 60 but you can donate a box of something it doesn't have to be 60.
 - e) You can just set them outside by the front door if no one is here or you can bring them into the office.
- 8) School Gift Update:
- a) Vice Principal Tennille Foerster said they are in the early stages of spending the money.
 - 1) 1st has gotten some of their math curriculum and 5th grade has some science kits in the works.
 - 2) In 4th grade Mrs. Miller came down and talked to the office about the science kits.
 - 3) Some of the budget has gone to buy supplies for the math centers. The rest of the money is being spent as needed.
 - 4) The new math curriculum has to be created.
 - 5) Paras are creating them now.
 - 6) Vice Principal Tennille Foerster mentioned they would send an email to the teachers asking them to take photos of the students using the school gift.
 - 7) Volunteers to help with the supplies would be helpful. President Zimbleman will follow up with Staci Olson.
- 9) Sister School
- a) Lumberg Elementary: A mom of 2 kids at Sierra is the principal of Lumberg. It is a title 1 school and they will be absorbing another school with the school closures. We will be doing a (new) reusable water bottle drive with Strides for Sierra. Other items could potentially be donated as the school year goes on.
 - a) Treasurer Sarah Crawford clarified that we cannot donate any of the money raised for Sierra for the sister school. But we can hold a separate fundraiser and/or drive to support them.
- 10) Board Member Changes: Melanie Kelloff moved out of state so the board had to fill the position. The Position was filled by Sheryl Doll.
- 11) Questions and Wrap-Up:
- a) A potential member asked: Who do we contact about helping with manipulatives?
 - i) We will come up with a plan for volunteers and get back to everyone on the volunteer website.
 - b) Where is the go-to for the PTA information. The PTA website is the best place to get that information. All of the board member contact information, fundraiser

information, is on there. The newsletter is also a great way to stay up to date on this information.

- c) We will vote on the minutes for last April's minutes and this meeting. The minutes, the budget, and the agenda will be posted beforehand next time.

The meeting was adjourned by 6:58.