

General PTA Meeting Agenda – 9.14.23

Location: Sierra Library and online via Google Meet

Meeting convened at 5:35pm

1. Welcome and Comments (5 minutes)
 - a. Sarah, Kelsey, Tennille
 - i. The Board was introduced:
 1. Kelsey Parker, 3rd grader, 1st grader, and Pre-K, co-president
 2. Sarah Crawford, 5th grader, 2nd grader, and twins still at home, co-president
 3. Emily Andersen, 2nd grader, kindergartener, preschooler, treasurer
 4. Chrissy Donegan, 4th grader, 2nd grader, part of the Committees with Missy Jucha (not present at this meeting)
 5. Sheryll Doll, membership
 6. Chelsea Caldwell, 1st grader, VP of community Events
 7. Amy Ward-Bailey, Secretary
 - b. Ice breaker (Everyone introduced themselves including online)
 - c. Presidents: Thank you for everyone online and in person attending, community engagement is very important to us this year, and we're so glad to see so many new faces expressing interest in the PTA.
2. Affirming of Board Slate for 23-24 year (5 minutes)
 - a. Co-Presidents - Kelsey Parker and Sarah Crawford
 - b. Co-VPs of Committees - Missy Jucha and Chrissy Donegan
 - c. VP of Community Events - Chelsea Caldwell
 - d. VP of Membership - Sheryl Doll
 - e. Treasurer - Emily Andersen
 - f. Secretary - Amy Ward-Bailey
 - i. Motion to Approve the board approved unanimously.
3. Secretary Report (5 minutes)
 - a. Approve PTA Meeting Minutes from April 24, 2023
 - i. Question: Do these minutes reflect the school gift results from the end of last year?
 - ii. Sarah: The minutes do not, but here's a summary of the gift. Granted \$5,206 for two-way radios. Allocated \$4000 for a playground shade (Dawn will talk about). Allocated \$8,200 for a future Track (This amount will be re-voted on every year, as it's not sufficient funds to complete the project, but just being held for now.)
 - iii. Update from Tienielle about the radios: Due to the first day of school lockdown, we learned that teacher radios made noise when they were supposed to be silent. So radios are being used for emergencies within the classrooms, but not for lockdowns. So far they've been very helpful in increasing communication within the building.

- iv. Question: Can we amend the minutes to include the results of the school gift as well as show that the budget was approved from last year?
- v. Motion to adjust the minutes to include the amounts for the school gift as well as the approval of the budget.
 - 1. Motion approved by a unanimous vote.
- 4. Treasurer's report (10 minutes)
 - a. Financial update (YTD Report)
 - i. Emily: So far this year teacher grants are being applied for and approved, and the back to school luncheon was a success.
 - b. 22-23 financial review presented to members for adoption
 - i. Financial Review Committee Member: We went month by month through the budget and it was all in order; PTA treasurer has been keeping good records. Well done!
 - c. Approving new budget items
 - i. Rationale: Due to a new Administrative Team as well as increases on food costs, we would like to update the budget slightly for this school year.
 - ii. Unallocated cash on hand at the end of the 22-23 fiscal year: \$2,733.
Proposed budget increases: **\$2,100** as follows:
 - 1. Staff wellness and team building
 - a. **PROPOSED \$1,000** new account
 - b. Budget description: These funds will be used by the Sierra administration to establish a positive culture through building trust and stronger relationships among staff and community.
 - c. Update from Tanielle: Last year there was a survey put out for staff and families, and as a result we did some big-picture planning about our focus this year. We ended up with instructional and SEL (Social-emotional) goals. However, a third pillar needs to be added: community building amongst our staff and our community with families. Tanielle presented it to Staff and focused on "Strict Fun" with the staff, in the theme of the 1980s. Staff completed a "breakout box" in this theme and then went together to starbucks. In talks with other Principals around the district, funding came from the PTA across the board, so Tanielle brought it to the Sierra PTA board for consideration. Right now it's coming out of Tanielle's pocket, but it'd be nice for it to be reimbursed as other schools' PTAs do for them.
 - d. Motion to approve the \$1000 for staff wellness and team building. Motion passed unanimously.
 - 2. Catering increases to \$800/catering event

- a. PROPOSED Conference Dinners increase from \$2,400 to \$3,200= **\$800** increase (4 events, each increases from \$600 to \$800)
 - i. Rationale from Emily: Due to inflation, the existing \$700 budget is really tight for catering of staff conference dinners. This increase will allow those running the committees a bit more ease to get catering.
 - ii. Motion to approve passed unanimously.
- b. Staff Appreciation Week \$700 to \$1,000= **\$300** increase
 - i. PROPOSED Increase to Staff Appreciation line item from \$700 to \$1000 to reflect greater cost for a week of appreciation instead of the usual brunch and class coverage.
 - ii. Rationale from Tenielle: Staff Appreciation Brunch has been a tradition here for years, where Room parents cover the classes and teachers get a brunch. From the teacher's perspective, however, it's challenging. 1) There's not always coverage so there's always staff who don't get to participate. 2) There are always emergencies/illnesses where room parents don't show, or when parents are covering and safety situations or inappropriate things occur. 3) From a teacher's perspective it's stressful to know whether room parents are indeed coming in. It's proved challenging as well to get kids back on track after the brunch.
 - iii. New idea from Tenielle: This year the idea is to change this tradition from a one day event, to doing something every day that week for the teachers. I.e. popcorn cart, 10 minute massages, coffee, etc. The food has been great in the past, but the staff gets fed often for conferences and this will alleviate a lot of stress for the staff.
 - iv. Question: Will this completely replace the gift that Room parents help coordinate for teachers?
Answer: Room parents can still reach out and arrange that, and/or if room parents want to do a collection for gift cards that's a possibility as well.
 - v. All in all, do we want to do something impactful that appreciates our staff without causing undue stress.
 - vi. Comments: "As a room parent, it was also incredibly stressful to be put in charge of a classroom without feeling like I was up to it."

- c. Sarah: In the past, the chair for conference dinners had to fundraise and ask for donations for that, but with the increase we just voted on, it should be easier to find catering and make this position easier for those who pick it up moving forward.
 - d. Needs
 - i. Conference Dinner Committee Chair
 - ii. Many classrooms still need Room Parents
 - e. Chrissy: Alyssa is working on filling room parents, we still need people to volunteer. We're also doing some additional staff appreciation this year (via Ashley)
 - f. Ashley: There's a facebook post this evening to sign up for additional staff stuff every month. Keep an eye out for that for the teachers.
 - g. Chrissy: Strides for Sierra and the Running club are in motion. All the committees are on their way.
 - h. Mary Zimbelmen (Organizer for Strides for Sierra): Registration is a little lower than last year, and if you haven't signed up and want a shirt you need to get it in asap. Question: Can I just sign up for the 1K and then change my mind for the 5K later? Mary: You can sign-up all the way until the day of the race, but if you want a shirt you need to sign up quickly because the shirt order is going in Friday.
 - i. Mary: We'll have a DJ, food trucks, it's a fun community event.
 - j. Sheryl: Kids can go on scooters right? MARY: No.
 - k. Chrissy: Most of our events are in the beginning of the year, feel free to reach out if you wanna get involved.
8. Community Events Report- (5 minutes)
- a. Chelsea Caldwell, Community Events chair (online)
 - b. Skate City Night
 - i. Next Tuesday September 19th from 5-7pm, it'll be a private Sierra event only for Sierra Kids. A flyer will go out this Friday. In future, we should know more than a week ahead about events like restaurant nights to help you plan with your family. There will also be free glow things at the event.
 - ii. Chelsea: I took my kids last year and they're super fun, really good for new parents. This is what the PTA does.
 - iii. Question: Where is Skate City? Answer: It's on 64th and Sheridan.
 - c. Parent Networking Event -October 25th 4-6pm - Jacks
 - i. Chelsea: This will go along with the goal of being more inclusive and welcoming to new Sierra parents, especially ones who can't attend meetings or get out of work.
 - ii. Kelsey: The goal is we'll offer this a couple of times a year, adjusting days to make it as inclusive as possible. Personally, having kids in elementary school in a new place during Covid, I didn't know any parents or anyone else and it was hard to make friends. It's a personal mission of mine to make sure I have friends. If you have other ideas for how we can be more inclusive as a community (since we'll all be together for the next 10 years), we're fully open and would love to hear your feedback and ideas.

- d. "Helping Kids Thrive" event - it's free; there's flyers here and we'll put the link in; option to learn more about kids and how to help them and support them.
- 9. Questions/comments (10 minutes)
 - a. Question: Who's the Advocacy chair this year? Because it's an election year for the school board, and we'll need the Advocacy chair to advertise election issues and attend meetings. Chrissy: We are still working on that one.
 - b. Next Meeting will be Tuesday November 7th at 5:30pm. Below is a list of upcoming dates to keep in your calendar.
- 10. Meeting adjourned at 6:38pm.

Upcoming Dates

9/19/2023 - Sierra Skate Night at Skate City

10/08/2023-Strides for Sierra Community Run and Fundraiser

10/25/2023 - Sierra Parent Networking Event - Jacks (4-6pm)

11/7/2023 - PTA General Meeting

2/7/2024 - PTA General Meeting

4/29/2024 - PTA General Meeting