

Sierra PTA General Meeting
Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2022

In person at Sierra Elementary School Cafeteria & Library and via Google Meet

1) Call to Order:

Co-President Shery Doll called the meeting to order in the Cafeteria at 6:34 p.m. She announced the other Board Members in attendance including Co-President Mary Zimbelman, VP Committees Becca Rehme, VP Membership Melanie Kellof, and Secretary Heather Flannery.

Secretary Flannery announced that a quorum of members had checked-in for the meeting.

a) Approval of minutes from December 7, 2021 meeting

VP Membership Kellof moved to approve the meeting minutes; the minutes were unanimously approved.

2) Principal's report and questions

Principal Troy Brickley provided an update for the membership. He noted the success of the recent Valentine's Day Parties. Also, Jefferson County Public Health recently ended the mask mandate; he has instructed the students that it is their choice and that the school will not tolerate teasing or bullying for those that continue to wear masks.

Principal Brickley also noted that March 3-4 is the Science Fair, the school accountability meeting is December 8 at 4 p.m., February 25 is the end of the trimester, spring conferences will occur on March 9-10, and the enrollment for the next school year is live.

He opened it to the floor for questions, and there were none.

3) Presentation on Stranger Awareness by Master Kyle Galloway

VP Committees Rehme introduced Master Kyle Galloway from Success Martial Arts, who provided a stranger awareness presentation for the parents, teacher, and kids in attendance. There were 17 kids attending. He provided information and tips for the kids on what a stranger can look like and what to do if you are approached by a stranger. He also provided a handout for the parents.

4) Reflections celebration

Co-President Zimbelman introduced PTA Reflections Chair for Sierra, Julia Belchar. Julia described the reflections program, noting that students could submit entries in many different categories under the theme: "I will change the world by..." This year we had three students advance to the state level. Julia presented a certificate to the students that participated.

Julia also provided an update to the membership on the program generally. There were only 6 participants this year, so we hope to send out a survey soon to Sierra families to gather information on participation and volunteering for next year.

At 7:10 p.m. the membership moved to the Library. Treasurer Sarah Crawford, and VP Community Events Lindsay Bunyard also joined the meeting.

5) YMCA update

Lennon Wolfe provided an update to the membership on summer camp opportunities available through the YMCA including specialty camps and adventure camps. The adventure camp is for 11-14 year olds. Registration opens February 26.

6) 100-mile club update

Maria Peters provided an announcement regarding the 100-mile running club. She plans to step down from leading the club after 25 years of running the club at Sierra and other schools. She noted that this is the only PTA sponsored event that is run by a teacher. In addition to other commitments creating time constraints, she also wants to have the chance to run with the students and develop relationships. She then opened to the floor for questions.

She responded to a question about having running club if the elementary schools switch to an early start, and she said she has had this program start very early in other schools.

Email president@sierraptaarvada.org if you are interested in the committee. Ms. Peters also plans to send this announcement out via email to the running club members.

7) PTA Updates

a) Treasurer

Treasurer Crawford provided two handouts to the membership: the monthly activity for this school year and proposed budget for next year. She went through the fundraising amount and the expenses we expect to come. She also provided additional information on the proposed budget for 2022-2023. She noted that there are things flagged in yellow (the color version will be posted to the website). There is a decrease in the technology line and an increase in the amount for conference dinners. She also noted that the goal is to make sure that we have the amount for the approved budget for next year plus \$500 remaining in the account, anything else goes towards the school gift line item.

In response to a question about the technology fee, Christy Yacano indicated that the district received a federal grant that funded devices for 1st and 2nd graders, so we swapped them out and they will take the place of 3rd and 4th graders. They have secured funding for 1st graders for next year, and they are hoping for a sustainable solution moving forward.

The budget will be voted on at the April meeting.

b) Membership

VP Membership Kelloff had no updates.

c) Community Events

VP Community Events Bunyard announced a restaurant night at Texas Roadhouse for February 22, Sake City on March 15, and Bliss on April 21.

There will also be a community clean-up event on April 24; more information to come.

d) Spring Fundraiser: Read-a-thon

Co-President Doll announced the spring fundraiser, a read-a-thon, will occur from February 28 through March 18. It is not a donate a certain amount per minutes read, but rather a community event encouraging kids to keep reading, and then also keep the fundraiser in the minds of the community. We are working to fund PTA events with the fundraiser. On February 28 kids can bring flashlights to school to read in the dark after the kickoff event. If we reach our fundraising goal we will have a smores party, there will also be reading and fundraising prizes.

She also answered a question about whether there is a family prize for fundraising, stating that no, the prizes are just on a per student basis.

e) Committees

i) Conference Dinners

VP Committees Rehme announced that the upcoming conference dinners are being hosted by two former teachers and will be awesome. There are still a few items they need, and all monetary donations are due by February 18.

8) Nominating Committee

Secretary Flannery announced that the nominating committee, including herself, Dawn Schippe and Sheryl Doll, are seeking people who are interested in running for the Board next year. The slate of nominees will be posted in March. Email secretary@sierraptaarvada.org if you are interested. Elections will be held at the April general meeting.

In response to a question, she clarified that many of the current Board members are running again next year. Currently, there is only one Board position that needs a nominee, but she reminded the membership that anyone is free to run for any position if they are interested.

9) Questions and Wrap Up

a) Next meeting April 5, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Co-President Doll concluded the meeting by announcing the date and time for the next meeting. VP Membership Kelloff also reminded everyone that we are always looking for committee heads and volunteers to help us make the most of the PTA funds.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.