

Sierra PTA General Meeting Agenda

Nov. 16th 2022

6:00-7:30 pm

In person at Sierra Elementary School Library

OR

Via Google Meet

Video call link: meet.google.com/csf-jzag-rob

- 1) Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by President Mary Zimbelman at 6:06 pm.
 - a) Approve minutes from September 2022 meeting - President Zimbelman presented the meeting minutes from the last general membership meeting. VP of Membership Sheryl Doll motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Dawn Schippe seconded the motion. The motion passed with no objections.
 - b) Approve amended minutes from April 2022 - President Zimbelman presented the amended meeting minutes from the April general membership meeting. Dawn Schippe motioned to approve the meeting minutes. VP of Membership Sheryl Doll seconded the motion. The motion passed with no objections.
- 2) Principal's report and questions
 - a) Principal Troy Brickley has officially announced his retirement at the end of the school year.
 - b) Things are going well. New staff is adapting well. The new curriculum is going over well. Kids are engaged and 'doing' math instead of just writing problems down. Everyone's classroom has been observed and indicators were being met and exceeded.
 - c) Report cards go home Friday - The math portion of the report card has been updated to reflect the unit goals of the new math curriculum. More information will be attached to the report card.
 - d) VP of Membership Sheryl Doll asked if the budget donated from the staff gift was enough to cover what teachers need for the new Math and Curriculum. There is still ~\$18,000 left from the \$21,000 donated.
 - e) Stacie Olson has not communicated a need for more volunteers to help prepare materials for centers.
- 3) YMCA update
 - a) Questions email thompson@denverymca.org
 - b) We are hiring for all positions. Apply online at [DenverYMCA.org](https://denverymca.org)
 - c) During Mrs. Thompson's maternity leave starting the end of December a representative will be filling in for the YMCA.
- 4) Lindsey Petty from Lumberg Elementary school
 - a) Lindsey Petty introduced herself as the principle of Lumberg Elementary

- b) Already the feeling in the Lumberg building is better because the staff and students feel that they have support. The water bottle donations were well received and the kids lit up knowing that they could meet their basic needs.
- c) Lumberg is a consolidating school and will be taking students from one of the closing schools.
- d) Lindsey Petty shared a heartfelt thank you for the support Sierra has given so far.
- e) A coat drive will be a great next step.
- f) Principle Troy Brickley asked what resource they are using for reading. They are using Expeditionary Learning until they can become an Expeditionary Learning center. While this is expensive and comes out of the schools budget this draws in the neighborhood students and helps them keep enrollment numbers up and bring in more families. Math at Lumberg is currently Math Expressions but they will move to Illustrative Math next year.
- g) No questions for Lindsey Petty.

5) PTA Updates

- a) Treasurer YTD Report - Sarah Crawford is not present at the meeting so President Mary Zimbelman went over the financial report.
- b) Financial Audit - the financial audit has been completed and approved.
- c) Strides for Sierra raised \$1500 more than last year.
- d) King Soopers has been very successful, Amazon Smile, Longmont Dairy - We will get a flyer together so all the simple ways to give back to the school are in one place.
- e) Heather Flannery asked why there is a \$5.00 limitation on each parent per room when there is no limit on the other donations like teacher dinners.
 - i) A parent answered that this was put in place by the PTA several years ago to create equity among all classrooms.
 - ii) Member Heather Flannery asked how we are going to handle conference dinners moving forward so we don't have such a large discrepancy for next year? It is a big item that we will discuss when deciding on the budget for next year.
 - iii) VP of Membership Sheryl Doll added that there are some parents who like to donate to things like conference dinners because they know where their money is going.
 - iv) Another parent added that parents would like transparency about where the money is sent and they didn't know that there is money in the PTA for conference dinners so some parents felt like if they didn't donate it would be coming out of the organizing parent's pockets.
 - v) It has also been noted that the Venmo is set to public so parents were seeing what others were donating. This should be made private moving forward.
 - vi) VP of Membership Sheryl Doll added that in the Signup Genius for conference dinner donations we need to add the goal and how much the PTA has budgeted so there is total transparency.

- vii) A parent brought up the discrepancy in class parties again. VP of Membership Sheryl Doll asked if class parties should be added as a line item on the budget for next year?
- f) Amy Phelps [Via Google Meet] added that the email to room parents from the committee chair is not accurate and needs to be updated. Room parents thought that they were going to get plates and cups taken care of and the current board was unaware of that. So the board will address that moving forward and come up with a solution.
- g) A parent asked if we are going to do a school gift the same as last year with proposals and a vote? Yes was the unanimous answer. The system has worked the past couple years so until there is a need to change it we will. But until then it will stay as is.

6) Membership

- a) Membership Update - VP of Membership Sheryl Doll had no updates.

7) Community Events

- a) VP of communities Lindsay Bunyard thanked the membership for the support of community nights.
- b) The PTA will try a different kind of fundraiser. It will function much like restaurant night but will be laundry service through Wave Max. Fundraiser will take place in December
- c) Clothing Drive for Lumberg Elementary - We will get a list of needs from Lumberg and sizes. Lindsey Petty suggested that maybe we could do a bingo board to vary what everyone donates. Only children's clothing donations this time around. The first week of December up to winter break is the projected dates of donations so kids can come back from break to a new coat. - Come up with a few winners and a few solutions.

8) Spring Fundraiser: Read-a-thon

- a) Volunteers will be needed. Information coming soon! VP of Membership Sheryl Doll was asked if the committee could more closely connect the dollars raised to minutes read.
 - i) This took the place of Race to Read so it was confusing for some participants. How can we tie the two together? Students used to like to see their name on the marque. So this was great motivation.
 - ii) VP of Membership Sheryl Doll asked how that was tracked? All of the sheets had to be collected and added together to track the readers and the minutes.
 - iii) Adding a family option to the read-a-thon so that families with multiple kids have a better way to track.

9) Committees

- a) Sun Shade update- Dawn Schippe

- i) Dawn is the sun safety committee chair at Sierra. Sun safety has now been added to the P.E. curriculum so students can learn why it's important to protect our skin from UV ways.
- ii) Dawn Schippe is proposing an additional sunshade for the K - 2 playground. The total cost is ~6,900 for the shade (that could have changed due to inflation). So 4,000 is needed from the PTA and the remaining money will come from a grant from the City of Arvada's grant matching program.
- iii) As a condition of the grant Mrs. Bunting's class will be involved in the planning process.
- iv) Dawn Schippe will also apply for the American Society of Dermatology's \$8k grant (tied to the sun safety curriculum being implemented in PE) in 2023.
- v) Is it ok to earmark \$4,000 from the track money to go towards securing the matching grant with the city of Arvada.
- vi) VP of Membership Sheryl Doll responded that in order to change the budget we have to post it for 30 days and then vote again.
- vii) A parent said that there is a maximum amount of money that can be moved from a school gift. We will need to check with our area representative to verify if this is accurate information and if so what that amount is.
- viii) In the past we let the entire membership know that we will be moving funds. We gave the entire school a chance to propose ideas we need to do the same this time.
- ix) If we change this now we are setting a precedent that funds can just change hands.
- x) This year's budget has been voted on. There is \$9,000 dollars earmarked for the track. But it will have to be re-voted on every year.
- xi) Dawn Schippe is reluctant to apply for a grant that won't be supported. She wants to know that the PTA will back this motion if it is approved. It must be proposed by the end of January/February.
- xii) The board responds that If the school gift is being re-voted on then we need to open it up for proposals from the rest of the school too.
- xiii) If transparency is the goal then we need to be open with the entire membership about the change and allow the entire membership to vote.
- xiv) Action items before anything can move forward. 1.) Talk to Natalie the PTA representative and 2.) Speak with Treasure Sarah Crawford to come up with next steps.
- xv) February 1st is the deadline that the board will use for discussion. But there won't be any decisions made before the next board meeting on February 7th.

10) Committees

a) Track update

- i) What is the update on the track? VP of Membership Sheryl Doll got 3 bids. The original bids were given in May so we need updated bids after inflation.
- ii) Every year we have to revote on earmarking funds so in order to pull off the track the school gift has to go to the track.

11) Board Member interest

- a) President Mary Zimbelman announced that the board will have many empty seats next year so we need to start thinking about who will fill the positions.
- b) During the February meeting an FBI representative will talk to parents about cyber safety. This will give parents a better idea what to look out for with their students.

12) Questions and Wrap Up

- a) A parent asked, "Have start times been finalized?" Principal Troy Brickley answered that start and end times have been finalized and will be announced to the community after Thanksgiving Break.
- b) VP of Membership Sheryl Doll asked if we have an update on the student numbers after the 16 schools closing? There is no update about numbers but there is talk about possibly starting a preschool program at Sierra.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.