

Orchard Home and School Association June 2021 Meeting Minutes

Attendees (Principal and Board Members): Mary Ferreri; Jimmy Judge; Patty Leung; Jenna Hammond; Tara Klaff; Bonita Shimpfky; Tia Ly; Jennifer DeSisto.

Other Attendees: Marya Larkin; Britt Erica Tunick; Meghann Bierly; Lisa Arillo; Vanessa Carr; Rachel Higgins; Janine Domingues; Stephen Andon; Adrian Walker; John Walker; Maria Sanchez; Melanie Amores; Danielle Scalzo.

Treasurer's Report:

2021-2022 Budget

- Tara stated that unlike previous years, we will have both the auction and Friends of Orchard in the 2021-2022 school year.
- Added \$1,000 to the DEI committee.
- Tara noted that the auction is expected to gross approximately \$50,000. A vote will determine the use of the net proceeds.
- \$0 will go to the Sustainable Orchard committee as it will be funded by grants.
- Jimmy explained that Orchard will plan to organize the Fun Run in 2021-2022 without expending funds on 3rd party vendors.
- 15 attendees voted yes for the 2021-2022 budget.
(Britt Erica Tunick; Marya Larkin; Meghann Bierly; Vanessa Carr; Tia Ly; Lisa Arillo; Stephen Andon; Patty Leung; Adrian Walker; John Walker; Jenna Hammond; Tara Klaff; Jimmy Judge; Janine Domingues; Mary Ferreri)

Vice President's Report:

- Jenna Hammond noted that there are a number of open volunteer roles.
- Parents are encouraged to reach out to Jenna at orchardvolunteer@gmail.com if they are interested in getting involved.
- Some of the committees that still need chairs and volunteers include the following:
 - Artsonia
 - Author visits
 - Bake sales
 - Birthday board
 - BoxTops
 - Amazon Smile
 - Choose to be Nice
 - Cultural Arts
 - 5th grade events (for example, Graydon Day; 4th of July parade)
 - Friends of the library
 - Friends of Music
 - Holiday Gift Wrap
 - TICTOC
 - School Supplies

- School photos and yearbook
- Merel Wagner will head up landscaping and will need volunteers.

Corresponding Secretary's Report:

- Tia Ly noted that parents should reach out if they are interested in becoming a class parent. Parents can email her at Orchardclassparent@gmail.com.

Committee Updates:

4th of July Parade

- Vanessa Carr is chair of the 4th of July float, and the parade will be held on July 5th.
- Orchard's motto of "Making Lemonade of Lemons" inspired this year's float theme - "Stronger Together."
- Vanessa and Lisa Arillo have started working on the trailer.
- 4th graders made lemons to be used on the float last week. For any 4th graders who did not have a chance to make lemons, please reach out to Lisa and Vanessa for the materials and instructions.
- Vanessa stated that we need volunteers to help with painting.
- We also need a portable generator to run lights and music on the float as well as turf, and plexiglass.
- Lisa encouraged current 5th graders to be involved with helping to decorate the float. This year, only 4th and 5th graders will be picked to either walk in the parade or ride on the float. They will raffle off 6 spots for the 5th graders to ride on the float.

2022 Auction

- Lisa Arillo will chair the 2022 auction. She stated that it will most likely take place in March 2022. She will distribute information including committees needed as soon as vendor and location details have been confirmed. She is looking for sponsors and volunteers. Anyone who would like to get involved should reach out to Lisa.

Dad's Night Out

- Jimmy indicated that approximately 40 dads attended Dads' Night Out, and it was a great opportunity to meet a lot of new fathers who had recently moved to the Orchard community.

Ladies' Night Out

- Tia said that there was a good representation of moms across the grades attending Ladies' Night Out.

BoxTops

- Tia noted that BoxTops generated \$130.
- Mrs. Tell's 4th grade was the top earning class and earned an ice pop party on the last day of school.

Amazon Smile

- Jimmy emphasized that Amazon Smile is easy to register for and we should encourage more families to sign up. He also noted that \$1,500 was earned for Orchard through purchases made on Amazon Smile.

5th Grade Bulletin Board and End of Year Activities

- Marya Larkin thanked everyone for helping with the 5th grade events. She noted that Graydon Day was a big success and the memory books came out wonderful.

DEI and LSHSA Committee Updates:

- Meghann Bierly is working on developing a calendar for DEI activities for the 2021-2022 school year. The calendar will have a list of monthly activities and opportunities for parents to get involved.
- She noted that DEI will continue to create story walks and hope to install more permanent posts for displaying each story walk.
- Jimmy reached out to Eagle Scouts to encourage their involvement with future projects.
- Parents who would like to volunteer for International Night can contact to Meghann Bierly. Meghann emphasized the DEI Committee is open to new ideas and anyone is welcome to join.

Co-President's Report:

- Patty described that the Dancing Panda app may help kids with educational activities over the summer break.
- The last day for ordering school supplies is 6/30.
- Going forward, HSA meetings will be on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.
- Summer reading lists have gone out to the kids.

Principal's Report:

- Mary shared that Mrs. Helen Poulis is retiring after 38 years of teaching at Orchard School. HSA has donated a reading bench in her honor.
- Mary read the inscription: "Helen Poulis. Thank you for 38 wonderful years. It takes a big heart to shape young minds."
- Mary described the ceremony held to honor Maria Sullivan. A cherry tree was planted in her memory near the entrance to the school along with a plaque. Her husband, daughters and brother attended the ceremony.
- Families of 5th graders will attend their graduation ceremony at Orchard on Friday, 6/18.
- Unlike previous years, we will not have a step up day on the last day of school. Instead, class lists will be sent out through Skyward in mid August.
- Mary noted that we are planning for full day instruction in September. She is planning logistics for lunch. She emphasized that anyone can reach out to her over the summer with questions and/or concerns.
- She also noted that our guidance counselor will offer opportunities for remote students to visit the school building prior to the first day of school.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52pm.