

Orchard Home and School Association May 2022 Meeting Minutes

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

Other Attendees: Becky Chin; Sarah McCourt; Elizabeth Segarra; Heather Madigan; Vanessa Carr; Leigh Porod; Judi Lee; Julie Martinez; Liz Suri; Eimear Lillis; Stephen Andon; Farrah Buchanan; Melanie Amores; Todd Rothman; Danielle Scalzo; Kristen Durante; Christopher Diaz

Treasurer's Report:

- Tara stated that the HSA has over \$100,000 in funds. She shared that the HSA budgeted to bring in roughly \$50,000 from the auction. She added that the HSA will be able to fund the long-term planning items previously voted on. Tara also mentioned that the HSA is still waiting to hear back from the IRS regarding \$3,000 in fines.

Vice President's Report:

- Becky informed everyone that they are working on creating turnover reports from committee chairs. She recommended all chairs to share suggestions on planning and vendors used. She emphasized that all chairs are welcome to remain in their roles for next year and will distribute a list of volunteers still needed for next school year by this June.

Corresponding Secretary's Report:

- Tia described that they may use Skylert to send HSA news going forward. By using this format, they no longer have to maintain a distribution list.

Committee Reports:

HSA Board Nominating Committee

- Heather announced that 74 people voted and she officially announced the incoming board as follows:
 - Co-President: Tia Ly
 - Vice President: Becky Chin
 - Corresponding Secretary: Sarah McCourt
 - Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Segarra
 - Assistant Treasurer: Shweta Dixit

Auction

- Jimmy described that the auction event brought in an estimated \$50,000 gross and roughly \$30,000 in net profit. He indicated that some items such as the landscaping committee may be rolled over to the next year. He thanked Lisa and Britt for their hard work in organizing such a successful and fun event. He reminded everyone that you can still buy raffle tickets to win remaining items from the auction.

4th of July Float Parade

- Liz announced that the first email regarding the float has been distributed today. She indicated that the float committee has had two meetings thus far. Many of the volunteers have worked on the float in previous years and will share their experience. Liz distributed a Sign-Up Genius today to encourage more volunteers to participate and to see which kids are interested in walking in the parade. She emphasized that parents should keep in mind that it is a long morning and a long walk. This year, all grades are welcome to participate. K-2 students will need a parent to accompany them. Even if you are out of town on July 4th, you can still volunteer your time.
- Liz described that this year's theme is "Let Freedom Ring." The committee is looking for a flat bed and truck. There is no requirement for the size of the flat, and it's a great opportunity for businesses to advertise by loaning Orchard their flat beds for the parade. Vanessa also suggested that anyone who wants to paint can help as well.

Orchard Museum of Art

- Kristen stated that the Orchard Museum of Art will be held on Tuesday, May 24 from 3:00-5:00pm. Artwork from all students will be represented. Kristen also mentioned that Mrs. Chicas has organized a list of volunteers to help with the setup.

Yearbook

- Liz informed everyone that the pages for the yearbook have been submitted to the publishers. She thanked all the committee members. Yearbooks will be shipped out during the first week of June and distributed in classrooms during the second week of June. If anyone missed the yearbook sales, please email Liz as soon as possible. If there are any extra books, she will distribute based on her waitlist.
- Jenna questioned if parents can continue to submit photos that can be used for memory books in the future. Liz responded that parents should continue to submit photos and she will archive the photos after the 4th of July parade. Photos from last year's 4th of July parade are featured in the yearbook for this school year.

Photo Day:

- Liz shared that Rod Bolton Photography has sent their contract for the next year. Liz stated that she is interested in hearing feedback from the school community on quality of the school photos and is open to recommendations for other vendors. For example, she is looking into Image Art Studio in Glen Rock. She noted that not all schools use the same photographer and we should compare rates between vendors.

Book Fair:

- Eimear noted that the Book Fair collected just under \$8,000 in sales. Orchard will receive a little under \$5,000 in Scholastic dollars. She will distribute a flyer for the online book fair. Raffle winners for the book baskets will be announced on Thursday, May 19.

Field Day:

- Eimear is finalizing with Mr. Stahl on how many volunteers will be needed for the Field Day activities.

Spirit Wear

- Jimmy shared that Spirit Wear raised about \$2,800 in net profit.

Co-President's Report:

- Patty thanked everyone on the present board for all their dedication this year. Patty is looking forward to more in-person events with the incoming board. She also thanked Lisa and Britt for all their hard work organizing such a successful auction event.

Teachers' Report:

- Leigh Porod provided the teacher's report for this meeting. She described that students successfully completed the ELA and Math portions of the NJSLA testing. All makeup testing has been completed. She also shared students were very respectful walking in the hallways and being mindful of others who were testing. She indicated that they were no technological issues during testing.
- Leigh thanked everyone for the treats, letters, and bulletin board notes during teacher appreciation week. She stated the teachers are very grateful and feel very appreciated.

Principal's Report:**2022-2023 Staffing**

- Mary thanked everyone on the current board for their time and for volunteering.
- She noted the following staffing changes:
 - Mrs. Price will transition to library media specialist
 - Mrs. Porod will transition to teaching 6th grade English at George Washington Middle School
- Mary also stated that they have hired a third teacher for 5th grade and the hiring process is now complete.

Teacher of the Year

- Mary announced that Mrs. Redfern who has been teaching for over 15 years has won the Teacher of the Year award. Mrs. Redfern will be recognized at a ceremony on June 14 at 7pm at Benjamin Franklin Middle School. The information will be distributed in e-news.

End of Year Fun

- Mary thanked Eimear for organizing the Spring Book fair.
- Mary shared that there are many field trips happening including a trip to the Arboretum for the Kindergarten class.

- She announced that Chase Hammond will be Principal for a Day on Thursday, May 19. She also reminded everyone to wear Green on Thursday in honor of National Mental Health Awareness Month.
- Mary noted the following upcoming school events:
 - Orchard Museum of Art will take place on May 24
 - 4th and 5th grade concerts will be held on May 24
 - There is no school on Friday, May 27
 - Field Day is coming up in June
 - Promotion day is June 20
- Step up day is on the last day of school which is June 22. Mary explained that Step Up day is a Ridgewood tradition. On the last day of school, the students will visit their classroom for next year. They will get a chance to see their teacher and classmates for next year. Any new students who just moved into the district will also be invited to attend.

LSHSA/DEI Committee Update

- Jimmy noted that Joan Guerrero and Meghann Bierly both have kids who will graduate from Orchard this year. They will need people to take over the DEI committee. He thanked them for making it accessible for everyone and creating tangible activities for the kids to experience on the playground. He also thanked them for organizing a successful International Night.
- Jimmy is currently waiting for the Eagle Scouts to complete the story walk project.
- He shared that Meghann will collect funds from Curious Reader for the Never-ending Book Fair.
- LSHSA will have a fundraiser coming up and members should receive more details soon.

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:03pm.