

Orchard Home and School Association June 2022 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order : 9:23AM

Attendees (Principal and Board Members): Mary Ferreri; Co-President: Patty Leung; Co-President: Tia Ly; Vice President: Becky Chin; Assistant Treasurer: Shweta Dixit; Recording Secretary: Jen Zolcinski

Other Attendees: Vanessa Carr; Marya Larkin; Britt Tunick; Vicki Roubal; Liz Suri; Joan Guerrero; Meghann Bierly; Amy Gill; Melanie Amores; Alexandra Hayes; Jennifer DeSisto; Flory Ortiz; Jimmy Judge; Ruya Kanar; Jenna Hammond

Co-President's Welcome (Patty Leung):

Patty thanked the Outgoing Board and welcomed the Incoming Board.

Patty noted Mrs. Redfern is Teacher of the Year. She is an asset to the community. Patty publicly congratulated her and noted that the HSA gifted her a \$100 gift certificate.

Patty requested approval of May Minutes - Liz Suri approved the minutes. The minute can be found at:

https://orchard.ridgewood.k12.nj.us/our_school/about_us/h_s_a

Treasurer's Report:

Shweta noted that the Auction is out of the budget next year, and Friends is back in. There is \$15,000 allotted for field trips. Funds for landscaping were not used in the 2021/2022 school year and will roll to next year.

Question from Marya Larkin: Are we able to add funds for the Green Team? Shweta will get back to her.

Vice President's Report:

Becky thanked all the volunteers, including the many returning volunteers, and new volunteers coming on to shadow. HSA is well covered for committees. HSA is still looking for an Omni coordinator.

Liz Suri asked about the schedule for Omni appearances. Per Mary, in previous years there was a schedule with all events dates and usually 4 people took turns appearing at the events. Also, the costume now has a fan and ice packs. Per Jimmy, there is a height minimum of 5'5 or higher, while height maximum is approximately 5'11.

Other committees where there will be open chair/representative spots include: Culture & Arts, DEI, Friends of the Library, Friends of Music, as well as someone to coordinate/brainstorm teacher appreciation activities. Jenna Hammond offered to chair Friends of the Library. Shweta expressed interest in representing for DEI, however, DEI has to confirm.

Jenna noted that for interested parents, there is info on committees available so that parents can see what they do if you have an interest in volunteering as a chair.

Corresponding Secretary's Report:

(Given by Patty as Sarah was not in attendance) Sarah is recruiting class parents for next year. You can nominate someone or yourself by reaching out to Sarah.

Tia noted that the HSA usually pairs an experienced parent with newer parents. As volunteers for class parents are received, they put them in order; however, if you have multiple children at Orchard, you may not be assigned for the particular child you requested to be class parent, and there could be changes/shuffling as additional volunteers are onboarded.

Co-president's Report (Tia Ly):

Tia noted the following regarding Community and HSA Communication Best Practices:

HSA news will continue to be sent on Fridays. HSA and e-news will continue to be sent separately. There will be a little more planning and notice for requests from committees/parents to include in the new items such as requests for volunteers. HSA will require that such requests and

related content be provided to Sarah McCourt by the Monday prior to publication so that there is sufficient time to review the item and edit the publication. It is understood that there will be times where this cannot be the case, however, this is the ideal timeline.

To request inclusion in HSA news, there is no requirement to have a flyer. Requestor is required to provide the wording for the blurb to Sarah, so she is able to perform a quick review it and not have to adjust what is sent into blurb format.

E-news is send from Mrs. Moran in the main office.

Tia noted the following for Field Day: It was a good idea stationing the photographers this year. They need slide show and the link earlier than the time frame it was received this year.

Committee Reports:

5th Grade Coordination

Amy Gill noted the following activities that were held or about to be held: End of Year Party, Graydon Day, 5th Grade Breakfast (executed by Georgie and Andrea; 5th graders received memory books, and Eimear put together 13 minute video, there was a confetti send-off), Sleep-under, GW orientation, Promotion Ceremony Monday 6/20, GW Orientation Tuesday 6/21, Deer Kill trip.

Mary noted that the 5th graders will had hour after breakfast to go around the school and have their books signed, and the 5th graders asked if their Kindergarten buddies can sign it too.

Tia noted that parents should start collating pictures for memory book early in the students school career and add to google drive. Liz noted the Google drives will be archived on the HSA website and that the yearbook link is always open. Liz also requested that parents edit what they are uploading (for example, don't put 5 of the same pictures up, choose the best one and only upload that one). Amy suggested parents share many group photos to help capture more of the children, as the

yearbook committee will ensure there are enough photos of each child included in the yearbook. Examples of past yearbooks can be found in the library. Joan Guerrero also suggested that the class parents reach out to teachers for the photos to include in the yearbook.

Amy Gill discussed the 5th grade gift, which addressed the teachers wanting outdoor space. A table was purchased and the HSA purchased a second one, including umbrellas, to be used as a respite for the teachers and to be located near the bike racks in front of the building. The gift will include flowers but those will not be added until the Fall. The gift was suggested by Mrs Moran and the tables were put together by Jimmy.

4th of July Float Parade

Liz noted this year's theme is "Let Freedom Ring." The float is under way. Many have volunteered for art team, many have volunteered to walk. Amy Gill asked if the current 5th graders are able to march. Liz answered yes, they are able to participate and also noted the following about the parade walk: K, 1st and 2nd grade students need a parent to accompany them during the parade; children marching must finish the parade — they cannot leave on their own, as the parent coordinators are responsible for the kids marching. The children can bring a packed lunch. Patty noted that the parade related activities are being done very efficiently.

Orchard Museum of Art

Patty complimented the event, saying the music set the vibe and the children were super excited to see the artwork. Per Shweta, it was noted from Vanessa Carr that Ms. Chicas is credited for creation of the event; the parent coordinators and volunteers simply helped to hang the artwork.

Yearbook

Liz noted that yearbooks are going home today in the children's backpack. Patty thanked the year book team.

Ladies Night Out

Becky noted approximately 30 women were in attendance at the Craftsmen in Fairlawn. She thanked everyone for joining and indicated it was a fun event.

Co-President's Closing (Patty Leung):

Patty thanked the 5th grade parents that will no longer have children at Orchard for what they've done over the years, including Joan Guerrero (a prior president) and Meghann Bierly (for her DEI contributions especially during covid and tough times) who were both present at the meeting.

Teachers' Report:

Judith Meany provided the teacher's report for this meeting. She thanked the HSA and parents for everything they do; she indicated that the teachers are grateful and appreciative; they are thankful for the children; and it has been another great year. She noted that the outside table is already being used by the teachers.

Principal's Report:

School Transitions

- Last day for children is Wednesday 6/22/22, last day for staff is Thursday 6/23/22, which is a busy day for the teachers.
- There will be 18 sections (3 per grade) at Orchard next year. This is the largest number of sections ever at Orchard, and, likely, our ceiling.
- There will be construction for the library office.
- Step up day — some children will be excited, some will need a moment, encourage them to sleep on it! The children will have name tags with the name of their new teachers on them. It is suggested that parents consider their own reactions to the news of

new teacher/class to ensure a positive impact on the children. If your child is out of school on step up day, you may check your child's report card, available on last day, for the new teacher assignment.

End of Year Fun

- This week, there is a “sleep-under” for 5th grade and one for the auction winner.
- 5th grade promotion 6/20/22 - Orchard siblings may join in person, and the remaining students will watch via live stream.
- A “quasi-CBA” was added for Wednesday 6/22/22. Students will get together to watch an end of year video. Ms. Chicas sent an email for photos to be included in this video: orchardvideopics@gmail.com. Ms. Chicas has access to other albums. Liz Suri suggested she have a working day with Ms. Chicas to share those albums.

LSHSA/DEI Committee Update

Meghann noted the Boy Scout volunteer is still working on the story walk project. DEI is looking for volunteers to organize it; she has files with ideas, such as things to focus on each month. Mary noted that the entire school reads a new book every month, perhaps this could be the one taken apart and used for the story board. Also noted that September's book topic is usually inclusion. Meghann noted two copies are needed is so that both sides of the pages can be displayed. Jimmy Judge suggested using the Never Ending Book Fair Money earmarked (approximately \$100).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:07am.