

## **Orchard Home and School Association April 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order: 9:13AM on April 20, 2023

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

Other Attendees: Mrs. Rubin; Suzette dela Rama; Adrian Walker; Melanie Amores; Britt Tunick; Heather Madigan; Crystal Cambareri; Jimmy Judge; Yeliz Kayak

Via Zoom: Mugda Mukherjee

Patty requested approval of March Minutes and Jen Zolcinski approved said minutes (recorded by Sarah McCourt).

### **Co-President's Welcome (Patty Leung):**

Patty thanked Tia for the sweets sale. She also thanked Mr. Kreisler for the 3rd grade play (where the students learned much about weather).

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Bonita: For March month-end, we have net income of \$14,714.41. We received \$19,537 for Friends of Orchard. For Box Tops and AmazonSmile, we've received \$919 versus a budget of \$1,300. Amazon canceled the AmazonSmile program, so this may be the reason for the difference. For Mom's Night Out, we have income of \$1,276. Orchard Wear budgeted a net profit of \$2,200 but so far we are only at \$90 (the treasurers will look into it). For teacher appreciation, we've raised \$2,200.

### **Vice President's Report:**

Becky: The 4th of July Float will be chaired by Tia. She is still looking for a chair and volunteers for the auction committee, which need to be

identified soon, as we must identify a venue and begin planning very soon. (Per Britt, she suggests we start the process of soliciting auction items in the summer, as, come Fall, many other organizations are also soliciting.) If you served on a committee this year, we will be requesting turnover reports.

### **Corresponding Secretary's Report:**

Sarah: She will be sending HSA news today since we are off tomorrow.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### 4th of July Float Committee

Tia: They will be meeting today after the HSA meeting. They are still figuring out a site, so if anyone has a driveway that could accommodate, it would be greatly appreciated. It requires a few weeks of people being on site, a source of water, ability to store stuff in garage, bathroom access, etc. They are also still working on securing a flatbed. They will figure out a theme in May. T-shirts for kids to wear while marching are available for sale online. It's a fun community building event, where you interact with a lot of other families. Note that children typically walk behind the float, however, they are looking into option to have kids to ride on the float this year.

#### Teacher Appreciation Committee

Sarah: We raised \$2,200, which will be used to feed teachers daily, stock the lounge, and give gifts.

#### Spirit Wear Committee

Sarah (for Vanessa Carr): For Varsity Hues, there were only 16 sales, which is likely due to other spirit wear sale running concurrently. We need to pick one. Also, we need to push the 4th of July t-shirts, as the t-shirts help with winning float awards. It was asked if we can we buy extra shirts for those who join the parade last minute. We could sell any

extras at the Kindergarten orientation, during Fall events, etc. They will discuss further at the 4th of July Float Committee meeting.

### School Supplies Committee

The sale goes on until July 1. The same company also has a spirit wear division. They offered to do the spirit wear sale for us. We get 10% of all sales. We received a \$500 credit for spirit wear to use however we want, and it doesn't expire until end of next year. This sale does go on year-round, and they pay us quarterly. We already sold over \$3,000 worth of merchandise, so we will receive \$300. They have special sales every week, and they want us to promote it. They are also willing to make custom products for us, and they update their merchandise regularly. They also provided a teacher promo, and teachers made purchases, saying the sizing was good and it was good quality. We have to figure out how it will work, as she is supposed to be promoting it. With Varsity Hues (the other sale) you have to buy in bulk, in advance, so you take a chance. Varsity Hues has more mature designs and the school sets the price.

### Nominating Committee

Heather: They have the slate for next year. Once it's announced, she will create google form, and then voting will be open for 2 weeks from that date. At the next HSA meeting, the new board will shadow the current board, then run their own meeting in June.

Co-President: Sarah McCourt

VP: Tina Georgiou

Corresponding Secretary: Meg DiMatinna

Recording Secretary: Crystal Cambareri

Treasurer: Liz Segarra

## 5th Grade Fundraising Committee

Britt: Movie Night will be held in May, where Minions - Rise of Gru will be screened. She will open up Goat Yoga to all of Ridgewood. They will sell the 5th grade T-shirts extras outside. There will be a 5th grade breakfast and a carnival on last day of school for just the 5th graders. It will include a DJ photo booth, dunk tank, etc. There will be another private movie night for just the 5th graders.

### **Co-President's Report (Patty):**

It was suggested that we either appoint a social media chair, or, eliminate HSA use of social media all together and just use GroupSpot. With GroupSpot, you have to pay HSA dues in order to access it. Families use it for other organizations/activities, such as George Washington Middle School, sports groups, etc. We can't post pictures on social media anyway, and we don't want kids on social media (as discussed at last meeting), so why should we be using it. It was suggested we have a training on GroupSpot at the new family orientation, and also have QR code for downloading it at back to school night.

### Federated Meeting

Jimmy Judge will be on the Federated Board next year, as well as Amy Gill. Presidents of all the school HSA Boards are also automatically on the Federated Board. This board meets monthly, along with the Superintendent and two members of the district's elected school board.

The school Budget will be presented for vote at next meeting. World languages and additional Physical Education were added to the budget.

The Late Start initiative is on track. The new Superintendent will start July 1, and he will be involved in selecting the next Business Administrator.

Former Mayor Ramon Hache is now the President of the Ridgewood YMCA. They host the Run for Hope run in May, where a person runs

200 miles from North Jersey to South Jersey. They are asking for all the Ridgewood schools to donate items to this effort, prior to the run (aMay 17-19). We will find out what's needed soon, and it will not run at the same time as the Girl Scout's toiletry collection, which will end May 8.

There was a reminder for the Tim Shoemaker vaping presentation (look for details in emails sent out by the district).

There was discussion regarding the district's use of Graydon. The Federated Board is trying to understand the cost of not being able to use it this year, i.e., what is the additional amount of money that Ridgewood/families are spending this year since they could not use the Graydon facility for year end events. (This is due to Graydon not have staffing until after the last day of school.) The prior year Graydon events had been free. Our 5th graders will be going to Campgaw to eat in their lodge and then hike around Ramapo in place of the Graydon event this year.

### **Teachers' Report:**

Mrs. Rubin: From a counseling perspective, we are beginning to plan for state testing on May 15 for grades 3, 4, and 5. We have really been working across all elementary schools and are in the process of picking a new school counseling program for September. Open Circle is no longer open for business, so new topics are not coming out and there are no professional development class offerings. Once a new one is selected, she will speak about it at open school night.

### **Principal's Report:**

Mrs. Ferreri: The district is looking to hire 3 world language teachers for the Elementary program. Right now elementary students do 1/2 hour a week of Spanish online. This is not a field with a plethora of available talent. It would be a new addition of programming for next year. For Physical Education, the kids would have two periods a week of PE. They will also assign a new Special Education teacher for Orchard

specifically. Every elementary school will have one whole Special Education teacher (i.e., no more sharing between schools).

The elementary schools have Tim Shoemaker do his presentation on social media on Monday, May 1. It is not specific to 5th grade parents, all parents can join. It is just for parents, not students.

With regard to security events, this is the first year we are alerting parents that we have held a drill (though it is not the first year we have held drills). As required by law, we have 1 fire drill a month, and 3 other drills over the course of 10 months, as well as an additional drill each month. The type of drills are:

Evacuation non-fire — this is how we evacuate with no bells.

Lockdown — this is an active shooter type of experience; teachers make it seem like a typical part of the day.

Shelter in place — in this drill, nothing changes. Everything continues as is, except the adults are attempting to limit traffic in the hallways. For example, recess or class changes might be delayed. They can call this drill internally without going on the loudspeaker. Last Friday was the first real shelter in place since the requirement to notify parents about drills was enacted, therefore, this was our first time notifying parents about an actual event. They crafted a letter that was never used before and later realized they could have included additional information about the drill, such as: It was a singular medical emergency in the nurse's office. The students had no idea that this was taking place.

This type of drill is usually used for medical emergencies, providing anonymity for the ill individual, helping the first responders with response, and eliminating any visuals for the students so as to reduce trauma. For any emergency in town, there is always a police, fire and paramedic response. Other examples of events requiring shelter in place drills include a bear in the area and a bank robbery in Glen Rock, where we were told to shelter in place so we would be ready to move into another area if necessary.

Jimmy noted that he has been asking the Village of Ridgewood, which owns the land at the entrances from the tennis courts and Orchard place, about installing a gate at these entrance points. It was suggested having a gate that just closes during the day so people know they can't walk through. The Village expressed interest after the Uvalde incident, but has not done any thing since. Mary suggests parents attend the Federated Board meetings to express their concerns.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30AM.