

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

Call to Order: 9:08AM on May 18, 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. Jasinski; Suzette dela Rama; Ashely Laub; Vanessa Carr; Adrian Walker; Todd Rothman; Mag DiMattina; Liz Segarra; Britt Tunick; Tina; Crystal Cambareri; Jimmy Judge; Mugda Mukherjee; Heather Madigan

Via Zoom: None.

Patty requested approval of the April minutes and Shweta and Becky approved said minutes.

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

Patty thanked Vanessa and Becky and other volunteers for the teacher appreciation week, noting that there were many hours put into this effort. The teachers, parents, kids were happy and appreciative. It was an extra nice week for all.

Patty noted that the Annie play showed off the sheer talent of the participating kids. She was impressed that they are so young, yet they were not shy, learned all the lines and songs, and were very good performers. She is looking forward to next year.

Patty noted that the Spring book fair brought in a lot of funds, allowing Mrs. LaBarr to buy many books with the funds. She thanked Eimear for her efforts.

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

Bonita: As of April Month End there is a net income of \$9,147.45. There is a meeting next week to go through this to make sure they net out flat for next year, and that they have a recommended budget for 2024.

Patty thanked her for her enormous efforts this year.

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

Becky: Field day is coming up, and she is looking for someone to shadow the field day prep work as she will need a new chair for next year. Reach out to her or Tina Georgiou to volunteer for this.

If there are expenses for any of the committees you chaired that has not already been provided to the treasurer, please get them to Bonita right away.

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

Sarah: There is nothing to report.

Patty thanked her for being so diligent with HSA news, noting that it is tough getting all the relevant information from all the committees for the weekly newsletter, in addition to working with the class parents to disseminate information.

### **Committee Reports:**

Dads Night Out

Patty noted that it's tonight at Stone and Rail, and there will be refreshments, food, etc. Patty thanked Becky and Marc Chin for putting it together.

Ladies Night Out

Patty thanked Amy and Alex, noting it was a great time. There was a table with decor, food, they also had Mary involved by organizing lunch with the principal for the highest scoring person (Vanessa Carr).

#### 4th of July Float Committee

Tia: The theme is Made in America. Vanessa Carr, Liz Segarra, and Abby Birnbaum are leading creative, Sean Neenan is leading building, Tia is leading logistics, and Patty is rounding up volunteers. They need lots of hands. They need wood, paint, fake flowers and greenery, if anyone has to donate. Donations are welcome in any kind, including cardboard, gift cards to home depot, etc.

Crystal Cambareri donated Mets tickets, which Patty and Tia will raffle off next week by selling every day at pickup/drop off. They are looking for some Kindergarten moms to sell as well. They will pull the winner next week. The request you bring cash to purchase the tickets, and funds raised will be donated to the 4th of July float.

#### 5th Grade Fundraising Committee

Britt: The 5th grade celebration fair will include inflatable 18 foot slide, inflatable obstacle course and inflatable ax throwing, as well as popcorn and cotton candy machines.

Patty noted how dedicated Britt was in her efforts for fundraising for the 5th graders this year.

#### Spirit Wear

Vanessa: They sold over 150 4th of July shirts other types of items, with income of \$840.

#### Nominating Committee

Heather: We have a new Board shadowing today and starting at the next HSA meeting. A total of 59 people voted with 100 percent in favor:

Co-President: Sarah McCourt

VP: Tina Georgiou

Corresponding Secretary: Meg DiMatinna

Recording Secretary: Crystal Cambareri

Assistant Treasurer: Liz Segarra

Patty thanked them for all they have done so far and for taking on these roles. She is excited for what they will do next year.

Patty also noted the following:

May 26 - Tia and Patty hosting popsicles on the playground at Orchard (donated by Tia and Patty).

June 9 - They decided to add an end of the year bash at Orchard right after school from 3:00PM-4:30PM, as a way to celebrate all that everyone has accomplished this year, especially after the full week of testing that some of the kids are going through. There will be music and inflatables. It is a free event.

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

Tia: Tia thanked the outgoing board and presented flowers to them.

She noted that there was a meet and greet with the new superintendent. (Ashley Laub noted that she attended and he will be doing monthly coffee chats with parents. She also noted a great first impression.)

There is a food drive going on. The Y sponsors our directory, and with that we are beholden to advertise three times a year what they would like advertised. They asked us to be a drop off location for a food drive for oatmeal and dry fruit. Ridge 5th grade Girl Scouts offered to pick up and deliver the items as their service activity.

Tia reminded the group that Jimmy Judge will be on the incoming Federated Board, along with Amy Gill.

### **Teachers Report:**

Mrs. Jasinski: There are new baby ducks in the Kindergarten classrooms. Her tank is right in front of her window if you would like to pass by to have your children see them. Their names are Rock and Roll, and KJA. Kindergarten would like meet with the individual on the Board that works with the class parents in advance of next year.

She noted that last week (teacher appreciation week) was really incredible. Each staff member felt very appreciated, which they feel all year, but felt even more so last week. She noted that the teacher social committee is interested in getting a coffee cart going permanently. The teachers thank the parents from the bottom of their hearts.

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

Mrs. Ferreri: The upper grades are testing all week. There are some other good parts to the week, such as extra recess, no homework, and continuation of their specials classes, as the teachers do try to balance the week for them. Testing scores do not come out until September. The teachers tell the kids that the scores don't do anything; it's just to see how the curriculum has been going. Mrs. Rubin is our testing coordinator, and she also helps any kids that may have extra anxiety during this time.

School is almost over and it's always a whirlwind after spring break and Memorial Day weekend. The kids will have class parties, which is the last thing for class parents to do. We do step-up day here at Orchard, where the kids go to next year's classroom with next year's classmates and teacher for about 20 minutes. They can see who they will be in class with the following year and meet their teacher. It's a great Ridgewood tradition.

5th graders will make a visit to George Washington Middle School on June 21, along with kids from Ridge and Willard. They will learn which “house” they will be in (Godwin or Monroe), which is their core group of teachers and kids with whom they will have classes. Orchard used to hold promotion day on last day of school, but have moved it up as it was chaotic to hold it on the very last day of school. After promotion, they will go back to class, where teachers plan out rest of day, including a special lunch and a movie in class. Wed morning will be a normal half day, then they will go to George Washington Middle School.

Orchard is in the midst of planning for next year. They will soon put on the website the dates of next year’s activities. They are in the middle of hiring, hiring an additional PE teacher (so each kid will have two periods of physical education next year) as well as a Special Education teacher. The district is just about finished with hiring for World Languages, so Mrs. Ferreri can give an update at our next meeting about what that will look like for next year. Also, they will continue with Curtains Up next year, with a Fall play for Grades 1, 2, and 3 (to be held Dec 8) and a Spring play for Grades 4 and 5.

Other

Patty noted that this is the last meeting of the current Board. Next month will be the new board.

Mugda noted that for the Choose to be Nice Committee, they are still working out ideas, and are looking to replace the current buddy bench.

Patty noted that last year the school voted for outdoor playground. There has been much planning going into this endeavor from Todd Rothman, Erin Mickelwaite, and Mrs. Ferreri. Issues led us to need more funds. The funds raised by the committees this year will be put toward this project. Mrs. Ferreri has worked to generate funds needed to supplement the project.

Tia and Patty provided another heartfelt thank you to the current board, committee chairs, and parent volunteers, pointing out all the work that

goes into the background of all the events that may be unseen and unknown. They also thanked Mrs. Ferreri for her leadership over the past year.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00AM.