

Orchard Home and School Association September 2023 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 9:06 am on September 20, 2023

Attendees (Principal and Board Members): Principal: Mary Ferreri, Co-President: Tia Ly (Zoom), Co-President: Sarah McCourt, Vice-President: Tina Georgiou (Zoom), Treasurer: Shweta Dixit, Assistant Treasurer: Liz Segarra, Corresponding Secretary: Meg DiMattina & Recording Secretary: Crystal Cambareri

Other Attendees: Yeliz Kaymak, Suzette Deva Rama, Melanie Amores, Jen Zolcinski, Alex Hayes, Stacy Heistein, Allison Kamin, Ashley Laub, Heather Madigan, Maria Borst, Fernanda Sbardella, and James Judge

Tia requested approval of the June meeting minutes and Meg DiMattina and Shweta Dixit approved said minutes.

President's Report (Tia Ly):

Welcome, we are off to a great start with tons of events coming up.

Treasurer's Report (Shweta Dixit):

The start of the school year, not much to report. On track with budgetary items. More numbers to come next month with payments coming in.

Vice-President's Report (Tina Georgiou):

Thank you to all of the chairs for attending the Committee Meeting. Thank you to Shweta for presenting.

Corresponding Secretary's Report (Meg DiMattina):

Class parents – please double check the sign-up sheets to ensure all included. Reminder to Committee Chairs to send an update to Meg by Thursday at noon for HSA News.

Committee Reports:

Landscaping Committee: Help needed on 9/22 at 9am

Back to School: 9/26 from 4-6 DJ, Omni, trying to push pizza sales to fund DJ.

Picture Day: Parents will receive a link after the photo has been taken. Nothing to do in advance.

LNO: This is not an HSA event, the more the merrier, welcoming event at a home.

5th grade committee: Movie night 10/13 screening Disney's haunted mansion, communications to come soon. Tickets sold in advance, snack pouches, glow stickers, ticket for a bag of popcorn. Fresh popcorn machine at event. Few more fundraisers for the remainder of the fall. Frozen pizza sale possibly.

Turkey Trot: The nature of the donation to social services will be communicated with the students at CBA. Communications are to come this week.

Fun Day (Jenna Hammond): Planning is underway, inflatables and prizes ordered in theme in an amazing way. Accessible and safe as possible in line with SEPAC, water available to refill bottles. Cakes to give away, pumpkin raffle, 2 lunches with Mrs. Ferreri. Contact Vanessa or Jenna with any questions

SEPAG (Sarah Kline): SEPAG mtg tonight. SEPAG is the new LSHSA rebranded. Always served families through informal guidance and social events. Expanding and improving capacity to work with parents and teachers. Social will be held next week 9/27 @ 8:45am. More events to be held throughout the year. More information will be added to GroupSpot and HSA News.

Co-President's Report (Sarah McCourt):

The federated meeting will be 9/21. At events, if food is being served without a license a permit is required. Permits are required for bake sales. Tia is working on permits for the first few events and organizing the process.

When dues are paid it is a manual process. Please bear with us.

Teacher's Report (Mrs. Rubin):

Social Emotional Learning at School depending on each student's needs.

- Tier1 – CBA: all students have staff highlights
- Tier 2 – small group counseling, lunch brunches, small and informal. Skill based target groups – to take place during school to work on specific skills.
- Tier 3 – More individualized, students struggling at school or needing additional support for something happening at home.

Helping new families and kindergarten families adjust.

2nd step – new social learning program rolling out for all schools. Broken down into four units throughout the year for grades K-5. More information coming soon. 1st of 5-year contract with 2nd Step, starting formally in October.

Principal's Report: (Mrs. Ferreri)

Welcome Back! We have had a very smooth start to the school year. Consistency in school days has helped. Didn't want last year to end because it finally felt like a normal year .A great start with new members. ENews will highlight new staff members.

Update regarding board meeting. Still holding onto money from auction in 2022 because one project was an outdoor classroom. This needs to be collaborative with BOE. Required paperwork with DEC. Submitted as ROD grant thought the state of NJ. Cannot move forward with bid process until ROD grant is approved. Will not be approved until November 2023, if approved can move forward in spring. Best case scenario is that this would be completed this year school year. Will keep us posted. Watch Board Mtg 9/18 to learn about the ROD program.

We love to have data on students. 4-5 assessments score reports will be mailed on 10/5. Orchard scores were very well.

This fall additional assessments for K and 2-5th, this is an enjoyable process. Parents will be notified for support children receive in school to make it a great experience.

Discussion/Comments:

Jimmy Judge noted Long Range Planning meetings are to brainstorm different projects and plans to use auction proceeds. Meetings are open to everyone. Will collect as many ideas as possible and it will be narrowed down to a few and the whole school and the whole community can vote.

Alex Hayes noted – something we can promise and show after the auction to show this is what your money went to. A tangible item we can promise and follow through with.

Jimmy Judge noted the Auction and Friends of Orchard are two separate items.

Ashley Laub mentioned to open option to present ideas to all Orchard families.

There are many ways to get ideas to the long term planning meetings.

Friends of Orchard and Auction this year. Will promote friends of family and some employers will match donation from family.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47am