

PTO General Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2019

MPR

Attendance:

Adelina Martinez	Jeanette Marin	Marla Guttman
Amberly Feathers	Jeff Schrieber	Melissa Waters
Anathea Lolen	Jeffie Khalsa	Michelle Quarneri
Arisve Rodreguez	Jennifer Ford	Miranda Barton
Beatriz Rico	Jeremy Freeman	Rachel Miño
Betty Woychowski	JoAnne Warburton	Sara Grace Vann
Blanca Coronado	John Woychowski	Simone Orellana
Caitlin Thomas	Julie Macchi-Ortiz	Skye Vallejos
Carolina Lopez	Karla Padilla	Sonia Lee
Celeste Wilson	Kristen Read	Sophia Jaewn
Chris Russell	Leiloni Mosihske	Terrell Neilson
Claudia Saavedra	Lindsey Ahrary	Vanessa Fumia
Damaris Scheichl	Liz Kessler	Vanessa Manrique
Heather Bilich	Lorraine Cho	Yvette Campbell
Heidi Seitz	Maria Carter-Giannini	Yvonne Lopez
Jasmine Escobedo	Maria Rodriguez	

Simone Schiller called the General Meeting to Order at 7:10 p.m.

Welcome & Introductions

Jeanette Marin and Liz Kessler, co-Presidents, did an introduction of the Board of Directors (of those present). Presented members and their title.

Farmer's Market

Chris Russell (c@chris.com, (408) 416-7626, www.chris.com) from the S/HPNA (the Association) introduced himself. Chris raised the idea of a flea market as a fundraiser. He also explained the Association sponsors school events. For example, the Association sponsored the Hoover Fall Gala along with a donation and a Hoover Sports Booster event, loaned canopies for the Trace Fall Festival, etc. Chris offered to help communicate with the schools and community. The Association is also involved with the Saturday Farmer's Market, which may change to 9am–1pm (it's now 10am–2pm). The Association is trying to build it up again as the Farmer's Market has dwindled a bit. The Association will provide free booths to a school club (as long as the school booth doesn't compete directly with other paid booths and/or sell prepared food). The Farmer's Market also welcomes school performances. Chris can also assist the PTO with Trace's digital marquee.

PTO Mission & Year in Review

The PTO hit all of its goals last year. The co-Presidents showed a video summary of the year, which Terrell Neilson put together. After that, the co-Presidents did a trivia session with prizes about the PTO. Discussion ensued. Ways to help the PTO were specifically reviewed and include, but are not limited to, Mobile Benefit, Box Tops, e-Script, Smile.Amazon.com, dinner out, plan a party (e.g., Stella & Dot). Everything members do this year (sign up for membership, volunteer work, attend meetings, etc.), earns a raffle ticket for the Disneyland drawing.

Walk-a-Thon - October 25 (goes until 4pm this year)

Liz explained that the Walkathon is PTO's biggest fundraiser of the year (goal is \$40,000). Jeanette explained that 50% of each 5th grader's earnings goes toward each student's Science Camp fee. Principal Rodriguez explained that that day's P.E. is the Walkathon. Therefore, all kids participate. This will be included on the updated form (Simone Schiller to streamline the Walkathon form by September month-end).

Fall Festival - October 19

Terrell Neilson and Yvonne Lopez covered the details of the Fall Festival and provided a sign-up list for members to show an interest in volunteering for this event. The Fall Festival is the biggest volunteer event of the school year. All volunteers will receive a Golden Tiger Ticket (worth 50 Tiger Tickets) and will be entered into the Disneyland drawing. Principal Rodriguez also explained that Trace sells pumpkins at the Fall Festival. Student volunteers are welcome.

Treasurers' Report

Lorraine Cho explained the budget-approval timeline, which includes feedback. Final review by the BOD is September 24, and it goes out for a vote by September 30. The approval cycle is complete by October 1. The budget will be reviewed at the October General Meeting. Lorraine explained that Benefit Mobile and Amazon Smile are free money and it would be a great benefit if everyone signed up. See www.tracepto.com for the full Budget Proposal. The librarian introduced herself and explained the book fair. The book fair recoups 55% to purchase books, coin counters, etc. The second book fair recoups 70% of all sales.

Fall Festival – Jeanette Marin moved for a special vote to approve the proposed budget for the Fall Festival and Walkathon expenses (so the PTO can start planning). Discussion ensued. Rachel Miño seconded the motion. The ayes have it and the motion carried.

Membership Update

Vanessa Manrique discussed the current membership pledge drive (ends September 20 and the winner will be announced September 27). The class that wins gets a popsicle or pizza party (up to the teacher). Everyone must let Vanessa know which class their kid is in so the tally is accurate. If a member is not getting emails, they should let Vanessa know. All members get a raffle ticket for Disneyland and are also entered into a raffle for the PTO drone give-a-way.

Principal's Update

Trace will have a run/hide drill next week. Therefore, there will be a parent meeting this week covering the emergency site plan. If neighboring schools go into a shelter-in-place, then Trace

also goes into a shelter-in-place. Parents may want to consider talking to their kids about the run/hide drill. The SJPD has a team of police dedicated to schools (aka “police angels”). If parents see a police car, it could be the police angels (rather than an investigation into criminal activity). This is a new public service. There was a hit-and-run in the kindergarten parking lot (a parent and student were hit). The driver was arrested.

Fifth grade students are working on a script for their movie. After they are done, then the 3rd and 4th grade students start working on their productions. All dates are on the Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) link on the Trace website.

Trace also started its six weeks of intervention this week (educational strategies that close the achievement gap and enable the students to meet the state’s challenging academic standards). Priority started with 5th grade to close any gaps, e.g., reading, writing, etc. Trace is a Title I school and receives federal funds help to meet the educational needs of its students (over 50% are on reduced lunch). Student enrollment is down. This year Trace’s enrollment is less than 900 students. This impacts the school. To work on this, there will be a door-knocking campaign.

Next General Meeting

October 8, 7:00 p.m., Trace Multipurpose Room

The meeting was adjourned by Simone Schiller at 8:30 p.m.