

Strandwood PTA General Association Meeting

May 6, 2021

Welcome & Agenda: (minutes by Lawson): called to order at 7:04 pm by Castle using Zoom

(Quorum min: 16) Virtually attended by: Maggie Castle, Jody Lawson, Cheri Scripser, Kandice Caicedo, Michelle Maeder, Liz Mallon, Ashley Gustafson, Lindsey Sowko, Eva Yee, Stephanie Taheri, Madeleine Holt, Marissa Shannon, Sarah Griffin, Anne Swanson, Hannah Robrecht, Liz Hadley, Maura Crvarich, Naomi Faulkner, Renee Schumacher, Tessa Struve, Tracie Watanabe, Jill Russell, Ami Stevens

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve the April 1, 2021 General Association meeting minutes by Lawson, seconded and approved

Principal's Comments (Scripser)

- We have 17 more days of school left!
- Superintendent is saying "This Fall is for All!" The district is moving forward with planning for everyone to be back full-time in school. Lunch will likely be outside though.
- Summer School has been expanded and will be at Strandwood. June 7-July 2. Grades TK-4 (5th grade will have an opportunity at the middle school). We're hoping to hire 8 teachers (currently have 4 from our site). We will also be an ESY site so will also have our Special Day Students on campus.
- Open House: It will be virtual and likely not live. We're planning on grade level Google slideshows and/or videos. I will do a Zoom Principal's Q&A and promote our hopes for #Fall4All.
- Heard talk about the district purchasing Chromebooks for sites using Covid money. Hopefully so! It sounds like the district may try to help provide 1 to 1 chromebooks, though they may ask that we provide our current ones for just our 3rd through 5th graders. More info and clarification on that at a later date.
- CAASPP testing starts May 10th. Virtual, half the usual length (science CAST will not be modified). Parents will be asked to help us download CAASPP browsers soon or have their student use a school device. (It was a district decision to have MDUSD students take the test this year.)
- 5th Grade Promotion has been planned for June 2nd at 8:30 AM on the upper playground. We would love to have help with banners, chalk art, etc.
- Last EDI meeting of this school year was held just prior to this meeting.
- What is the principal working on? Supporting students and teachers, summer school (will be based on need, likely 15 students per grade level), follow up regarding vacancies for 2021-2022, planning for our next school year. Also, Lindsey Dohlman (office manager) will be leaving us after this school year.

Teacher's Report (Sowko)

- TK/K: Finishing up farm unit and starting ocean unit, reviewing sight words and letter sounds, finishing subtraction, focusing on independent writing
- 1st: We have finished habitats and animal reports. We are now exploring animal adaptations. We also have learned about American symbols for social studies. In reading we are introducing more long vowel patterns, affixes, as well as developing comprehension skills and strategies.. In math, we are just finishing up our unit on geometry and are moving onto measurement. This month we are focusing on opinion writing.
- 2nd: We have been learning about flowers and plants in Science; money, counting coins and time in Math; Arab American Heritage Month and Earth Day in Social Studies; and Figurative Language, Prefixes, and Suffixes in ELA. Each student did a Women's History Report in March for Women's History Month.
- 3rd: Animal Reports, Measurement Unit, California Settlers, Charlotte's Web
- 4th: Gold Rush (both in Social Studies and ELA) Reading, "By The Great Horn Spoon", context clues, fractions for math
- 5th: Virtual Science Camp, Geometry, Persuasive Writing, Physical Science, Westward Expansion
- Music: Combined multi-Cultural, historical, and Earth Day songs with music fundamentals in bi-weekly classroom music. Students in gr. 3-4 continue in the Recorder Karate program after school w/Ms. Blind. Ms. Bromley is recruiting for next year.
- Library: Lessons for May will focus on Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Memorial Day.

Financial Reports (Castle)

- Review of financial reports presented by Castle (Treasurer and Financial Secretary were not available this evening)
 - We're starting to see revenue for Read-a-thon and received checks for our dine-out nights.
 - IA invoices for Q3 came in so they were paid to the district.
 - Had a few reimbursement requests come through. Also processed a few refunds from DDA since we didn't hold it this year.
 - Will be sending out balances remaining for allotments again at the beginning of May.
- Motion to ratify checks #7279-7294 by Lawson, seconded and approved
- Reports are always available on our website for review as well.
- The budget committee typically meets in July/August to prepare for the next school year. This usually includes the PTA President, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and any other members who are interested.

VP Reports

VP Communication (Watanabe)

- We currently do not have anyone to take over communications. Hoping to have someone step up to help transition them into the next year!

- Read-and-Dream is looking for new people as many current parents are aging out.
- Green Team was busy with Earth Week. Was able to hand out flower/pollinator kits to students.
- Fall Fest is also in need of a new coordinator. Sarah Griffin is interested!

VP Programs (Schumacher)

- No report

VP Ways & Means (Holt)

- Farm to You program has generated about \$60 so far.
- \$502 was raised from the Jack's Dine-Out Night. We also raised about \$355 from Zachary's.
- Read-a-thon is up and running. All info is on the PTA website! We have already had over \$9200 pledged, with 118 students registered so far. Not sure how it will go as this is the first year it is being run.

VP Hospitality (Markowitz)

- Still working on an "Awesome Box" for Mrs. Kurk. Were able to extend the deadline so hoping more families participate (have 42 cards so far; can have up to 100).

Unfinished Business

- Presentation of the July 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020 Audit Report: (Mallon)
 - Motion to approve the 7/1/2020 to 12/31/2020 Audits of all 5 accounts as presented by Liz Mallon by Mallon, seconded and approved
- Arts Curriculum proposal presentation by Ashley Gustafson and Mrs. Caicedo
 - Objective - supporting engaging art lessons, provide experience with different mediums, build creative confidence, gaining art competence, Art is the A in STEAM
 - Using parents to "take the place" of Mrs Kurk
 - 72% teachers would value parent volunteer art program (school survey 19/22 response)
 - 17% don't need formally trained, just prepared and patient
 - Ashley surveyed 15 parents - 10 said they would be willing to volunteer for an art program in classes
 - Structure - in class would have 2 art docents per teacher and work out specific class schedule; responsible for bringing and taking care of art supplies; docent might bring up some art history or teaching the art technique
 - 2 head coordinators to manage the class docents - maintain art supply inventory, docent schedule, work with staff facilitator and to all stay in touch that it is running smoothly
 - Asking for PTA funding for supplies and online art curriculum = Deep Space Sparkle

- Deep Space Sparkle recommended by Valley Verde, proven effective. The cost is \$400 for the year for lessons for all grade levels with a variety of lessons. There are videos available to watch before presenting as well as step-by-step written instructions. Art Technique Development to be led by the head coordinators. Monthly grade level lessons that are seasonally and culturally diverse; art supply guide
- Ability to use recycled materials for art. Use the community to get ideas for other projects.
- Proposal: 2 parent lead volunteers, staff facilitator; Asking for storage space for art supplies either in the closets in the Science room and/or Fame area of PTA room
- \$125/class = \$2750 for start up cost for supplies; Art docent funds = \$250
- Asking PTA for \$3400 to cover curriculum and supplies for 22 classrooms 2021/22 year
- Questions/Comments:
 - Assuming that docents will likely stay consistent throughout the year with their classroom (usually once or twice a month). Yes, but may need to borrow to other classrooms as needed. (Coordinator will help to find subs.)
 - Concerns about getting and retaining volunteers. Is there a plan to help with this? Hoping that parents will really get behind an art curriculum. Maybe host an “art together” night for interested families to come on campus and do projects like a mural on the blank ball wall. Advertise in the newsletter, possibly teach a class or two over the summer, ask parents on the PTA forms at Back to School Nights, etc.
 - What about students at the kindergarten level? Deep Space Sparkle does have lessons available though will discuss with K teachers as they already have a station rotation in place. (Mrs. Kurk did not work with kindergarten level.)
 - How does this idea compare with the FAME program? Tracie Watanabe (former FAME coordinator) thinks that it may be easier to get volunteers as there is less “teaching” from what she can see. It appears to be more prep work and guidance that is needed from volunteers which won’t scare off so many. (Ashley Gustafson has been working on paring down lessons from FAME to keep some form of that curriculum alive as well if there is interest in the future.)
 - Still concern about what volunteering will look like with Covid precautions in place. We have a lot of openings still for programs on campus as well as board positions, etc.
 - Sad that we have to fight for programs like Art and PE! Might be good to incorporate kid art docents from each classroom (or at least from upper grade levels) as well like Green Team currently does.

- What about incorporating this with fundraising? Maybe host art nights or parties like I Heart Art or Board and Brush. Would be great to have a big art gallery in the MU the night of open house.
- So far 2nd-5th grades are interested in the program per Mrs. Caicedo (still waiting to hear from 1st). Hope that this will get a crew of parents interested like we do with things like math stations, etc.

New Business/Recommendations of the Executive Board

- Motion to approve using up to \$200 out of “Gardening and Improvement” to repair the kindergarten sandbox by Lawson, seconded and approved
 - Background, there are two dads that are going to meet with Dr. Scriptor to discuss repairing the K sandbox.
- Motion to approve Events Calendar as presented below by Lawson, seconded and approved

Open Discussion

- PTA Room and Sutter’s Fort items on the stage need to be cleaned up.
- Nutcracker may also be looking for volunteers. No idea if that program will be able to move forward due to covid protocols and/or lack of volunteers to take it over.

Announcements

- Read-A-Thon Pledge Drive – Ends May 14
- Black & White Photo Fundraiser –Monday, May 10 (3:15-5:45pm)
- Executive Board Meeting – May 11 @ 7:00 pm (via Zoom)
- Kona Ice Truck Fundraiser – May 26, 1:00 pm
- General Association Meeting (final of the school year) – Thursday, May 27 @7:00 pm (via Zoom)
- Memorial Day – May 31 NO SCHOOL
- Executive Board “Pass the Books” Party – June 1 (details TBD)
- Last Day of School – June 2
- 5th Grade Celebration – June 2, 8:30 am

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm by Castle