

## **Orchard Home and School Association October 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Attendees (Principal and Board Members): Mary Ferreri; Jimmy Judge; Patty Leung; Jenna Hammond; Tara Klaff; Bonita Shimpfky; Tia Ly; Jennifer DeSisto.

Other Attendees: Lisa Arillo; Rebecca Rothman; Todd Rothman; Jennifer Szilva; Heather Madigan; Dana Jeong; Eimear Lillis; Amy Gill; Johnny Segarra; Marya Larkin; Mary Saglimenbi; Shweta Dixit; Harish Ramaswami; Judi Lee; Meghann Bierly; Meghan DiMattina; Melanie Amores; Nao Okamoto Ramos; Tracy Parrinello; Michael Bouton; Adrian Walker; Anabelle Andon; Stephen Andon; Vanessa Meer

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

- Tara described that Orchard currently has over \$62,000 in funds. The funds are used to organize events such as the upcoming auction, host guest speakers for school wide assemblies, and for grade level field trips. So far, we have had one guest speaker -Kelsey Tainsh who visited Orchard on October 6<sup>th</sup>. The cost for the assembly was about \$1,500.
- Tara stated that the HSA has collected over \$3,000 in dues just from contributions paid on PayPal, and the goal is to collect as least \$4,000.
- She also noted the following funds have been raised since the start of the school year:
  - Over \$2,000 from birthday books
  - Over 3,000 from movie night
  - Over \$2,500 from The Back to School Picnic
  - Over \$400 from spirit wear

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

- Jenna stated that Abigail Birnbaum is the current Tic Toc Chair and she needs volunteers. Jenna encouraged everyone to learn more about the program by checking out Tictoc.org.
- Orchard still needs parents to volunteer as safety patrols in the morning drop off line. Anyone interested in helping should reach out to Linda Bryan.

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

- Tia stated that she sends out the HSA news on Sunday evenings and highlights any new information that was not previously mentioned in the weekly emails sent by Kathleen Moran. If any chairs of committees would like information communicated to the Orchard community, they should email details to Tia prior to Sunday.
- Tia also mentioned that the Group Spot committee still needs volunteers to manage ad sales.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Group Spot**

- Jimmy noted that 131 Orchard families have paid their HSA dues, which activates their Group Spot accounts.

### **Auction Update**

- The Orchard auction will be held on April 29, 2022. The change in date allows for the event to have both indoor and outdoor space. The venue can accommodate an estimated 300 people in its outdoor space which will be partially tented.
- The auction will have a casino theme and feature games such as poker, blackjack, and roulette. There will be a live auction, silent auction, and surprise give-a-ways. Food and drinks are included in the ticket. Flyers will be sent home in kids' backpacks soon with more information as well as forms for sponsors.
- If you would like to volunteer, please reach out to Lisa Arillo.

### **Fun Day**

- Todd Rothman indicated that the committee has sold over 1,200 raffle tickets and 230 wrist bands. Some of the fun raffle items include Principal for a Day.
- On the day of the event, families can pay in person if they had not previously purchased the raffle tickets and wrist bands.
- The committee needs more volunteers to bring in items for the bake sale.
- Amy Gill noted that there will be a haunted house as a part of the Fun Day festivities.

### **Jingle Bell Jog**

- The Jingle Bell jog was a great success with students running a total of 2,272 laps which equates to about 325 miles total (7 laps equal 1 mile).
- Families should make a check out to Orchard HSA and place in envelope with child's name. All money should be sent to the main office. Jen Silva will collate the donations and provide gift cards to the Social Service Association of Ridgewood on Orchard's behalf.

### **Back to School Picnic**

- Heather stated that the picnic was a great way to kick-off the school year, and further noted that the event raised a lot of money from goody bag and pizza sales.

### **Birthday Books**

- Heather noted that she has received 126 orders for birthday books thus far which equates to about \$2,300 dollars collected. This is an increase from last year's sales of an estimated \$1,500.

### **Orchard Wear**

- Jimmy stated that over \$1,000 has been collected so far from Orchard wear sales.

### **Charleston Wrap**

- Dana Jeong reported that the Charleston Wrap campaign started about 40 days ago and has collected over \$2,088 in sales. Of this amount, Orchard will earn \$750 from the sales. The campaign ends on November 29.

### **Book Fair**

- Eimear noted that the book fair will be held outside on November 9 and 10, weather permitting, and alternatively will be moved to the cafetorium.
- Books will be delivered on Wednesday, November 3 and set up will start on Monday, November 8. Eimear described that she will need more volunteers to set up each morning especially if it will be outdoors. Families will receive a volunteer sign up link shortly.

### **Yearbook and School Photos**

- Rod Bolton Photography confirmed the makeup day for photos is November 8.
- Similar to last year, the photographer will put together a composite of the students' individual photos for each class' group photo.

### **Spirit Wear Swap**

- Amy Gill stated that to celebrate National Recycling Day on November 15, students will be encouraged to turn in Orchard spirit wear that they have outgrown. The items will be sold at a lower price (such as \$3 a piece) in an effort to raise money and to recycle and reuse.

### **Movie Night**

- Amy noted that movie night was a success raising over \$5,000.

### **Amazon Smile**

- Jimmy reminded everyone that Orchard receives a monthly update on earnings from Amazon Smile.

### **Green Team**

- Jimmy noted that it is listed as Sustainable Orchard on the budget.
- Marya Larkin is the chair of the Green committee. It was created in 2018-2019 school year and was directed to look into sustainable policies and ways to decrease Orchard's footprint. Due to the soil remediation and the pandemic, the committee is now officially resuming and applying for certification for Sustainable Jerseys for Schools. The committee aims for certification in Spring 2023. The first step is to create an Orchard School Green Team. More information will follow.

## **Co-President's Report:**

### **Federated Meeting – BOE/Village Council Elections**

- Patty explained that she, Jimmy, and previous HSA presidents Amy Gill and Todd Rothman participate in these monthly Federated meetings.
- Amy and Todd are currently planning the Harlem Wizards game which will be indoors and held in January 2022.
- Jimmy noted that candidates running for BOE and Village Council cannot promote themselves in HSA meetings.

### **Fun Obstacle Race**

- Patty described that HSA is thinking of organizing an obstacle course race rather than a fun run. The event would be held on Orchard school grounds and possible vendors include Grit Ninja. The goal is to get all six grades involved in the event.

### **Spring Movie Night**

- Patty emphasized the importance of providing opportunities for community building on Orchard school grounds. They are planning a movie night free of charge in the spring. Goody bags and spirit wear may be given out to students. The goal of the event is to provide an opportunity for students to spend time together without a need for fundraising.

### **Venmo versus PayPal**

- Jimmy explained that Orchard can accept donations through PayPal as a nonprofit. However, Venmo is not currently set up to handle a nonprofit. He pointed out that Venmo accounts also have to be linked to a personal cell phone.

### **Long Term Planning Meetings**

- In an effort to encourage higher attendance, the long term planning meetings will take place immediately following the next three HSA meetings. The agenda of the meeting is to discuss how best to allocate funds raised especially from the upcoming auction.

## **Teachers' Report:**

- Mary Saglimbeni provided the teacher's report for this meeting. She emphasized the success of the Back to School picnic and Jingle Bell jog events. She thanked the HSA for setting up the assembly with guest speaker Kelsey Tainsh during the week of respect theme. Many of the teachers took the conversations back to their classrooms with follow up activities.
- She described that the kids enjoyed surprising Mary with a special announcement at CBA, treats and posters to celebrate what she has done for the school to celebrate principal appreciation month.
- She further indicated that the teachers are looking forward to the goal setting conferences.

## **Principal's Report:**

### **School Update**

- Mary thanked all parents and volunteers for participating in school wide events (such as the Back to School picnic and Movie Night) that have been held at Orchard thus far. She noted that it has been so memorable and meaningful to the children. She asked parents of upper grade students to remind them to keep their cell phones turned off during the school wide events. Mary shared that visitors to the school, such as the new supervisor of English Language Arts, continue to compliment the Orchard community.

### **COVID Questions and Close Contacts**

- Mary emphasized that Orchard is trying to balance a typical school experience and safety protocols as best as possible. She stated that there have been some cases at school. Nurse Horton conducts a contact trace in last 48 hours of exposure. Some factors to consider are whether close contact happened in a classroom setting and if there was vigilant mask wearing. In the cafeteria, students have assigned seating for purpose of contact tracing. In all of the cases in the K-5 levels, the students who were deemed a close contact all tested negative. Mary stressed that she and nurse Horton are available should any parents have questions/concerns.

### **Long Range Planning Team Meetings**

- Mary encouraged the Orchard community to join the long term planning meetings. The goal is to develop a proposal on how the funds raised will be allocated in improving the school. The families of Orchard will then be able to vote on the proposed items/actions. Priorities will be set prior to the auction in the spring.

### **LSHSA/DEI Committee Update**

- Shweta Dixit explained that Diwali is the Indian New Year. She thanked Mary and Jimmy for their support and enthusiasm in planning a special activity in honor of the Diwali Celebrations. She explained that the kids will spend about ten minutes outside the school building contributing to an outdoor mural using colored rice. There will also be lights in the evening for children and their families to enjoy. A link will be sent out to families to learn more about the Diwali celebrations. Students will participate in creating the mural on November 2 and any parents interested in volunteering can reach out to Shweta.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59pm.