

Orchard Home and School Association March 2022 Meeting Minutes

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

Other Attendees: Amy Gill; Becky Chin; Lisa Arillo; Britt Erica Tunick; Liz Suri; Melanie Amores; Joan Guerrero; Julie Martinez; Elizabeth Segarra; Johnny Segarra; Judi Lee; Danielle Scalzo; Todd Rothman; Jen Zolcinski

Treasurer's Report:

- Jimmy provided the report on behalf of Tara. He stated that HSA currently has about \$94,000 and will begin to disburse funds on items such as a landscaping team, 5th grade class gift, and others.

Vice President's Report:

- Jenna encouraged all interested to become a board member on the HSA for the following school year. She described it as a great way to connect with more people in the Orchard community.
- Jenna stated that schools collectively raised about \$7,511 for the Ridgewood Library as part of the reading marathon fundraiser. Orchard had a 41% participation rate in submitting students' reading logs for the month of February. She noted that we ranked 3rd in schools with the most participation.
- Jenna also reminded everyone that author Dan Santat will be virtually visiting classes on April 20. The author visit form was sent to everyone in e-news and March 17 is the deadline to order his books. All books will be signed by Dan Santat. Anyone with questions should reach to Jenna at Jennamhammond@gmail.com.

Corresponding Secretary's Report:

- Tia sent out a special edition HSA e-news on March 16 to promote the sale of the Spring Orchard spirit wear.

Committee Reports:

Talent Show

- Tia shared that the virtual talent show will premiere on Friday, April 1. Anyone who ordered a viewing kit will receive the kit after school that day. Currently, HSA has received about 80 orders. There will be extra kits available for sale after school as well for anyone who did not have a chance to pre-order the kits.
- Tia also reminded everyone that there will be a No Cook Night fundraiser on April 1. Parents will have until March 29 to order items from Kimchi Smoke Barbecue.

Science Fair

- Becky stated that 75 kids participated in the virtual science fair this year. She applauded the students for their projects.

Auction

- Lisa reminded everyone that they are still accepting sponsorships and donations for the auction. Currently, four families have sponsored tables for the event. The auction is about six weeks away and about 110 people have already purchased tickets.
- Todd raised the idea of using Handbid app for the auction so that it is more accessible for anyone who is unable to attend the event.
- Lisa explained that anyone who cannot attend the event will also have a chance to bid on raffle baskets that include special teacher items.

Yearbook

- Patty stated that yearbook sales are live and families can order a yearbook using PayPal. She will also host a table outside after school for families to order in person. Another option is purchase online but there will be a shipping fee.
- Patty reminded everyone to upload pictures of kids at school events. The committee needs as many photos as possible of kids from each of the grades.
- Liz Suri will continue to chair the committee next year and is looking for volunteers to join the committee. Patty emphasized that it's a great opportunity to stay social and connected to the Orchard community.

Co-President's Report:

- Patty encouraged dads to join the Dads Night Out event which will be held at Stone and Rail on March 24. Food, refreshments and games are included in the fee.
- Jimmy noted that the Wizards game is coming up and is a great fundraiser for Ridgewood.
- Jimmy also shared that Federated HSA invited a returning speaker who will discuss the topic of vaping.

Green team

- Marya stated that March 29 is the 2nd application deadline. Thus far, Orchard has earned 115 out of 150 points to obtain bronze certification. For reference, Marya noted that Orchard had 85 points in January 2021. The Green Team has until June 30 to complete the necessary action items to earn bronze certification. She will distribute information to the Orchard community about the action items in the beginning of April. If anyone is interested in helping with action items, please reach out to Marya at maryalarkin@gmail.com.
- Jenna asked if students at Orchard will participate in the Village Green Fair on April 10 and Marya responded that more information is coming.

Teachers' Report:

- On behalf of Lindsay Rubin, Mary provided the teacher's report for this meeting. She shared that Mrs. Rubin had spoken to students about the transition the week prior and students have had a very successful transition to mask optional.

Principal's Report:

- Mary shared that the Irish dance team will perform at CBA on March 17. She was excited to share that classes have been going on field trips and there will be more to come.
- Mary described that prior to an auction, families will have an opportunity to vote on how the funds will be allocated. Long range planning meetings have narrowed it down to three options: kindergarten swing set, flexible seating in classrooms, and an outdoor classroom. Families are asked to vote by ranking the three options in priority and voting will be open for two weeks. Families will receive an email with the auction ballot letter and a survey on Friday, April 1. Finalized projects should be completed by this fall.
- Mary discussed the Alternative Schedule task Force and urged families to stay informed.
- She and the teachers have started to plan for next year. Mary stated that the staff is preparing for three sections for each grade in September. She also noted that they are still looking to hire a media specialist for the fall.

LSHSA/DEI Committee Update

- Joan stated that International Night has been moved to April 22. She described the theme as “What is your immigration story?”. The goal is for students to learn more about themselves. The committee will try to tie in Ukraine and communicate a theme of peace. More details are to come.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.