

Orchard Home and School Association October 2022 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order : 9:09AM

Attendees (Principal and Board Members): Mary Ferreri; Co-President: Patty Leung; Vice President: Becky Chin; Treasurer: Bonita Shimpfky; Assistant Treasurer: Shweta Dixit; Corresponding Secretary: Sarah McCourt; Recording Secretary: Jen Zolcinski

Absent: Co-President: Tia Ly

Other Attendees: Mrs. LaBarr; Vanessa Carr; Britt Tunick; Norah Friedman; Mugdha Mukherjee; Melanie Amores; Elram Goren; Jenna Hammond; Todd Rothman; Sarah Kline

Via Zoom: Segametsi Moatlhaping

Patty requested approval of June Minutes - Vanessa Carr approved the minutes. Patty also requested approval of September Minutes - Vanessa Carr approved the minutes. The minutes can be found at:

https://orchard.ridgewood.k12.nj.us/our_school/about_us/h_s_a

Co-President's Welcome (Patty Leung):

Patty thanked the parents for bringing Orchard to life. The School Picnic was a success. All the kids play together, even mixing among grades. The 5th Grade Fundraising Committee Movie Night was really great, including the popcorn display. Thank you to Jen and Britt. Even Omni was there. Picture Day was super organized and streamlined. A new company is being used, and they were efficient. Make-ups are on 10/27/22 if you want to do a re-do.

Treasurer's Report:

Bonita - There is a current balance of \$91,912.90. Year-to-date Net Income is \$3,173.12. Year to date Gross Profit is \$6,780.12. HSA

member dues of \$2,879 have been collected, which represents 72% of the school. We are wrapping up numbers on Back to School picnic, they should be ready by the end of October.

We have deposits and debits from last fiscal year, but since we are cash basis we can't allocated them to prior year. So they will be allocated to this year's budget even though they are prior year items. A lot of it is from the 4th of July. This is due to the time it takes us to process the debits and credits.

Vice President's Report:

Becky - There are some repeat chairs, and some new chairs. If there is anything you want to be involved in, you can still be on the committee without having to be the chair of the committee. Committee chairs are part of a Google group distribution. If you are a chair and didn't receive an email with this information, please inform Becky. It could be in your SPAM. It includes information on chair/committee guidelines, communication requirements, timelines, including for requests for omni to be at events. We are still looking for an omni coordinator. Mrs. Ferreri will look for a previous year's calendar of events that Omni attended. Patty noted that Liz Segarra and Sean have offered to be Omni when needed and thanked Ms. Chicas for repairing Omni's nose!

Corresponding Secretary's Report:

Sarah thanked all the class parents and noted that they have been great with disseminating information. Also, please provide HSA news as soon as possible, especially committee chairs. Also, if you have something to be included in e-news, send it to Sarah first - she will review and pass on to Mrs. Moran so that it is included in both HSA news and e-news.

Co-president's Report:

(Given by Patty in Tia Ly's absence) Tia asks that you pay HSA dues if you have not already. Tia has been doing good job with Group Spot. Chairs have been providing her flyers for their events to be included in Group Spot. Group Spot gives you access to your school and

community. Todd suggested that the HSA send a separate reminder email to those that have not yet paid dues.

Committee Reports:

Author visit:

Jenna Hammond - Jenna noted that we did really well, crediting the advanced notice with helping to exceed last Spring's author visit numbers - 163 books in total were ordered by the school. There were a lot of new families participating, numbers were great across the board. Donna, the external organizer, has been excellent. A note on our paperless system - some people are not sure they filled out the Google form correctly, even though they receive an email back with the information provided in the form. It has been confusing as there are multiple orders from the same email addresses, etc. Jenna suggests you reach out to the chair or checking your own inbox.

Fun Day

Vanessa Carr - Rebecca Rothman, Jenna Hammond, and Vanessa spent time yesterday sorting tickets and raffles. Over 214 wristbands were sold in presale and lots of raffle tickets along with them. Todd and Rebecca offered their home to organize these. Fun Day needs more volunteers. Rebecca is a great resource, she knows where every volunteer needs to be. Thank you to Bonita for more cash boxes.

Todd noted that we need more dads to volunteer. Patty noted that it's one of our bigger fund raisers - last year we raised \$7,500 in 1.5 hours for the school. This really helps the school with any needs they may have.

Book Fair

(Given by Patty in Eimear's absence) The book fair is on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. The sign up genius has gone out to request volunteers - they still volunteers. There is the addition of taxes this, so bring your calculators to help the kids understand how much money they need for their purchases. The use of e-wallets helps kids to not lose

cash. Info on how to start an e-wallet went out in e-news. New this year — they will no longer be giving out bags. So if your child is planning to buy a lot of books/items, please provide your child with a bag.

Friends of Orchard-

Patty Leung - Patty is creating a very informative letter. The Friends of Orchard campaign is very important this year as we are not hosting an auction this year. \$20k of earnings from last year's auction will not be in the budget this year. Last year, many families used their companies to match their donations to Orchard, and we were able to raise \$15,000 for Orchard. Please consider choosing Orchard for your company to provide/match donations. We will send e-mails as well as mailers this year. Whatever you can contribute, whether, \$5 or \$2,000, helps Orchard. Please be on the look out for this in the next two weeks.

Apparel Sales

Vanessa - There were 98 orders with 278 items sold on the Varsity Hues site, leading to \$470 of profit. We should received everything in three weeks.

5th Grade Coordination

Britt Tunick - cards for a cause closes 11/1/22. We will be selling t-shirts with apple design at \$25 each to the 5th graders. She is working on the Wreath and Garland fundraiser again, waiting on Goffle Farms to get back to her. At Fund Day, there will be a table at fun day to sell remaining snack bags from movie night, and they will also put out card sale samples. They are in need of more parent volunteers for building/break down of the spook house for Fun Day.

Co-President's Report (Patty Leung):

Updates from the Federated Meeting:

- The late start time issue is back on table and the committee is running again. They have invited the members of the federated board to meet and create the criteria to present to the superintendent coming in.

- Parents are being given an opportunity to be included in the determination of the criteria to decide what makes a good super intendant. Todd Rothman - tonight at 7:30PM is the main time for elementary school parents to give input to the search firm. Everyone has ideas on what the new superintendent should be like. You should have received notice of this in e-news under Superintendent Search section. Please set an alarm for this evening. Mary - the Principals did this last night over zoom. She offered to send as another e-mail to remind parents about t his meeting tonight. Todd - Tonight is pre-K to 5th grade. Now is your time to speak to this. Patty - These were tough recommendations to push at the Federated meetings, so please attend.

Teachers' Report:

Mrs. LaBarr thanked the parents for organizing the Jingle Bell Jog and the author visit. The author is coming for free for the whole day, not just an hour. Mrs. LaBarr thanked Patty for personally purchasing extra copies of all the books for the library. She noted that the kids are looking forward to Fun Day.

Principal's Report:

Overview of Assessments (see link to presentation included at the end of this section)

Spring 2022 NJSLA - Grades 3-4-5; ELA, MATH; additionally, Science for 5th grade. Lengthy, 5 days of testing, plus additional two days for 5th grade science. Usually the school receives a glimpse in summer, then in Fall receive specifics for the school and then send to parents. Results were mailed home late September.

If a child didn't pass NJSLA, we want to know why. If you have a 4th or 5th grader, you get a lot of detailed info.

Mrs. Ferreri showed a chart of Orchard's passing percentage compared to state and also compared to the district.

Percentage meeting/exceeding State for ELA:

3 - 89.3 *

4 84.5*

5 83.3

Percentage meeting/exceeding State and district for Math:

87.5 *

84.5 *

90.5 *

Percentage meeting/exceeding State and district for Science:

61.0% *

* This signifies that Orchard met or exceeded State and district.

Fall 2022 - NJ Start Strong - Grades 4-5; ELA, MATH; they gave it last year since we had not given it in a few years due to COVID. It's a very short test — one 45 minute ELA test and one 45 minute math test. Results will be mailed late Nov./early Dec. Start strong is not as detailed in its feedback given which is as: less support, some support, strong support.

LinkIt Benchmarks - Grades 2-3-4-5; ELA, Math; the school can sort data and teachers use LinkIt as online grade book. Also, LinkIt has culled state questions and has performance benchmarks that the school can give 3x per year. The school can see performance based on standards. Given in one classroom period for each test. ELA is mostly reading based; there are some written responses but not like NJSLA when they have a full day for writing responses. An example for math, one of the standards might be adding by 10s, so the school can see

specifically what a student needs support with. It is reviewed internally and may be used at Goal Setting Conferences with your teachers. LinkIt assessments are: not meeting; partially meeting approaching; bubble/meets/exceeds expectations.

ELA screenings - Tests for high frequency words, how many sight words known, “nonsense” words known, and reading levels. This is something Mary looks at, it is reviewed internally, used at Goal Setting Conferences with your teachers. Benchmarks are: does not meet, approaches, meets, exceeds expectations

When all of this data comes in on the Fall staff development day, this is what the school is busy doing - evaluating results.

For students in need of support -

Tier I - is what happens in class with the teacher, ie extra time the teacher spends with the child during a learning activity.

Tier II - is inclusion in basic skills groups.

Tier III - is more intensive support, such as someone with an IEP, or supports that go in and out of their classrooms.

Intervention and referral services - if your child is in this, you have been invited to the meetings. It's very transparent, reports go home to the families, etc. Proud to say you would know and we would be working on it as a team.

We don't have a formal gifted and talented program. We do look at how to give some additional challenges to such students during class time.

The overall result is that we are seeing great performance from our students here at Orchard. To see that they have done well, and that Orchard did really well compared to the district, Mary, the teachers, and staff are very proud of the work done.

Question from 2nd grade mom - how are students prepped earlier in 2nd grade, as 5 days of testing seems like a lot. Mary - 2nd grade gets a little

bit of practice as they take the LinkIt assessments. Also, the Math program we have, Pearson, they are also the publishers of NJSLA. The state has also released sample items from their test - the digital item library. They have then broken down by standard.

Below is a link to the presentation shared with parents during the meeting. You may email Mrs. Ferreri with any questions.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tQy2gFdHSDddZgfFMAgLf5Org91xRgmx/view?usp=sharing>

Halloween

We are trying to find our sweet (time) spot this year with the Halloween parade. Feedback given previously was that there was a lot of back and forth to the school, so we are trying the parade at 2:30PM. Students will come back in just to pick up backpacks and come back out at 2:50 (but can still pick up at 3PM, you don't have to pick them up earlier). Don't have to send a form back to the school to take your child out for lunch, but you do have to let the teacher know if your child will be leaving for lunch.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:03am.