

Orchard Home and School Association January 2023 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 9:08AM

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

Other Attendees: Sheila Brogan, BOE Member; Mrs. Fischer; Suzette dela Rama; Jimmy Judge; Britt Tunick; Crystal Cambareri; Todd Rothman

Via Zoom: Danielle Scalzo; Julie Martinez

Patty requested approval of December 2022 Minutes and Becky Chin approved said minutes.

Co-President's Welcome (Patty Leung):

Patty introduced Sheila Brogan, who was there to discuss Super Science Saturday.

Shelia Brogan: This is the Board's 35th year doing Super Science Saturday. The last 2 years were remote, now it is back in-person. It will be March 4, 2023, from 9:00AM to 1:30PM. Usually about 1,000 people, from preschoolers to grandparents attend this event. This year's event will include Liberty Science Center's science circus, geared toward elementary and middle school students, and explores the pos/neg static electricity, states of matter, pressure of air, etc. They call the kids up to help with the experiments. NASA will join again this year with a presentation based on their satellite laser that's taken pics of the ice sheets in Antartica. Greenland is 2 degrees higher in temperature now than 1,000 years ago. New Bridge Medical Center will discuss how vaccines work. Exhibits/presentations will also include: IBM Hackensack River Keepers, Health Barn, Bergen County Mosquito

Control, model airplanes, nutritionist from Shop-rite presenting on healthy snacks, and more. There are usually 30-40 adult presenters.

Being remote taught us we can have presenters from outside of NJ. Remote presenters include: The Omaha Zoo, The Marine Lab at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, The University of Chicago Oceanography group (talking about octopus and squid and why it's important to study them), the Lamont/Doherty Columbia Unit Earth Science campus.

Students from the Ridgewood High School Applied Engineering Club will present their inventions. They are working on a wild fire notification system, a methane eliminating compost bin, a rinse bin for recycling plastics, etc., and are really focused on sustainability.

In the Hall of Experience (for younger kids) there will be the robotic group, the egg drop challenge, and the preschool corner. They will serve bagels in morning, hot dogs for lunch, and there will be a rocket launch. Kids are welcome to present but are not required to do so.

Patty continued the meeting by thanking Jenna and Mrs. LaBarr for the author visits. The books purchased in connection with these visits are in constant rotation in the school library.

Patty thanked Amy and Georgia for the teachers luncheon, saying the teachers very much enjoyed the food.

Patty thanked Mr. Kriesmer and the others involved with the Holiday programming, saying it was nice to have everyone back and feeling festive in the school.

Patty thanked Amy for organizing the Ladies Night Out Barr class, saying it was nice event that provided good exposure to another form of exercise and a chance for participants to socialize.

Patty thanked Marya Larkin, the green team, and Mrs. Ferreri for their efforts to have Orchard certified for sustainable NJ. It took hours and hours and a lot of work, charts, etc.

Treasurer's Report:

Bonita: As of December month end, net profit is at a negative: \$-16,684.91. The Friends of Orchard campaign just kicked off. Our HSA membership is close to the projection of \$4,500 - we received \$4,100.

The Book Fair deposits were made this month so will see proceeds next month. The Yearbook check just came in and the Orchard Wear check will be in shortly as well.

The big hits of expense were \$6k community building of which \$1,500, was from last year hitting this year. She asked if we should do another push for fees and it was determined that we could mention it at the next Orchard HSA event.

Vice President's Report:

Becky is going to look around to see if anyone is interested in leading the 4th of July float efforts, as Vanessa Carr is looking for someone else to step in. She asked if there are any fundraising we can do for this event. Todd will provide the truck again. It was asked how much the trailer rental cost. IT was suggested that we ask local landscapers to borrow trailers. It was asked which size are they looking for and the answer was: big! Julie Martinez suggested she might be able to help.

Corresponding Secretary's Report:

Sarah indicated that she has nothing to report. Patty noted that this was due to her efforts in ensuring clear communications this year.

Committee Reports:

Group Spot

Tia: She ran a tip in e-news that if you want to see postings pop up, you should turn on your notifications.

Author Visit

Given by Patty in Jenna's absence: there is a virtual author visit for the 4th and 5th grades in February. In March, there will be a final school-wide author visit.

Friends of Orchard

Patty: We have raised \$16K after sending a letter to parents, with donations ranging from \$25 to \$8k. We are very thankful for these contributions. We were hoping for \$10k and we surpassed that. At the end of the year, we will discuss how we will spend the funds raised.

Bingo

Britt: Bingo night is tomorrow night. We are closing out online orders this afternoon. They will be selling bingo kits, pizza, jug boxes, the t-shirts, raffle for birthday visit from Omni. There are prizes from the school/teachers, plus Sweet & Sassy manicure certificate, etc.

It was asked if parents allowed to participate. Yes, the entire family can participate. Each bingo pack includes four boards and a bag of skittles to use as markers. This is the first one back in-person in a while. Britt needs more volunteers from the 5th grade parents for this and in general. The 5th graders should help tonight too. It was noted by Mrs. Ferreri that it can be very loud, there is no guaranteed win, and it's a big night, so not all young kids do well at this event.

It was asked if we can get a projector to show the numbers. Britt to share preorders with Mary. She noted that there are always false bingos, so don't clear boards until checked. They will need a microphone.

Talent Show

It was suggested we use the Talent Show event to also raise funds for the HSA, and to use the funds specifically for the 4th of July float. Jimmy pointed out that 4th of July hits next year's budget, so whatever

decisions we make now are for the next Board; whatever we raise, when making the budget in June, the Treasurers should make sure to keep it in that bucket so that it's not spent on general/other items.

Science Fair

Becky: It will be back in person on March 2. We have a parent volunteer from each class to go into the classrooms to perform an experiment with the kids, to try to increase interest/participation in the Science Fair. There will be a homework pass granted to each student that participates in the Science Fair.

Reading Marathon

Becky in Michelle Elias Macdonald's absence: This will be in February. There will be communications sent soon. Kids can set goals on how much they want to read, it raises funds for the Ridgewood Library, and kids usually earn a coupon for a Ben & Jerry's ice cream.

Friends of Music

Britt: This will be held Friday, January 27, 2023, at 7:00pm. Cost is \$25 for adults, \$10 for kids, and \$20 for senior citizens. It will be at George Washington Middle School. Adult professional musicians perform. This raises funds for RHS for scholarships for students pursuing degrees in music. Friends of Music also hosts a songwriting competition.

Culture Committee

Jimmy: Box of Light science chemistry presentation for grades K-2 and 3rd-5th will be held on February 24, 2023, and ties into Super Science Saturday. On April 11, 2023, there will be a musical performance for DEA, with a classical pianist and fiddle player and presenting how Irish and Indian traditional music tie together. These events will be held during CBAs. This committee should come under budget this year.

Co-President's Report:

Tia discussed the January Federated HSA meeting:

The Superintendent gave updates on paraprofessional staffing, as well as budget planning, noting that the focus is on heating and air conditioning unless structural needs pop up. There is a Lunar New Year event this weekend, which has sold out. Jamboree is happening soon.

Updates on the Wizards Games: They still need volunteers (just from the various HSA Boards). There is a private Facebook group to exchange tickets. We usually generate about \$25k to be used across the district. It was decided it would be mental health related and they are still thinking about how to implement. The games are on January 25th and 26th. From Orchard, Mrs. Ferreri, Mrs. Fischer, Mrs. Woods, Mr. Stahl and Mrs. Lintner will be playing. Sarah will add to HSA news a note on which teachers are playing which days, in case kids want to make signs. The events sold out in 7 minutes. Per Todd, next year the ticket limit will be changed from 6 to 4. The Jamboree folks will sing the anthem, and there will be no pre-show this year. Pizza and snacks available this year, so there will probably be lots of people going back and forth.

With regard to payment platforms used by the various HSAs, there is not a standardized approach across the schools. It was asked if there is any official guidance. The Federated Board will consult with the school accountants for advice on this matter.

Britt suggested that in general, people consider adding images for communications they really want people to read, but it was noted that for HSA news, they can only add links to flyers, as there are limitations.

Teachers' Report:

5th Grade Teacher Mrs. Katherine Fischer: Mrs. Fischer noted that it was really nice seeing everyone together at the Holiday Singalong, and the teachers were appreciative of the crafts and snacks brought in by

parent volunteers on that half day. There will be a winter Concert on February 1, 2023, at 9:30AM for 4th Grade (playing recorders) and 5th Grade (singing along with instruments for those that play). The teachers are looking forward to the Kelly Yang author visit. The Talent Show is coming up and will be a lot of fun. The 1st Grade play is Feb 16, 2023. Mrs. LaBarr and the HSA are hosting the school-wide author visit on March 9, 2023. She thanked the HSA for the author visits and all the other things the parents have done. She also noted again that the teachers strongly suggest labeling jackets, lunch bags, etc. The teachers feel bad as well when kids lose items.

Principal's Report:

Mrs. Ferreri noted that the school is busy, and about to hit the mid-year point of the school year. In January, there is lots of assessing with the students, with the younger grades one-on-one with teachers, and older grades having practice tests. If there are areas of concern for your child, you would know already, and the school teachers/admin would already be meeting with you. It feels like a very normal year - everyday is lots fun, and it's been going great.

Kindergarten is doing information sessions with parents this year (new this year) and there will be 3 sessions in total, and they are in addition to back to school night. The sessions will be from 2:15PM to 3:00PM on Fridays. Last topic was "A Day in the Life of a Kindergarten" and next one is "We Are All Readers." The date of the 3rd session will be changed since it was originally scheduled for Friday, April 21, 2023, which was just announced as an extra day off this year for EID.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10AM.