

# Orchard Home and School Association February 2023 Meeting Minutes

**Call to Order:** 9:16AM

**Attendees** (Principal and Board Members): Mary Ferreri; Co-President: Tia Ly  
Assistant Treasurer: Shweta Dixit  
Corresponding Secretary: Sarah McCourt  
Other Attendees: Nancy Wong, Mugdha Mukherjee, Todd Rothman, Julie Martinez

## Co-President's Report (Tia Ly)

- Thank you Jenna and Mrs. LaBarr for author visit by Kelly Yang. The Fourth and 5th Graders loved it. Getting ready for Hena Khan author visit on 3/9.
- Thank you to Mrs. Chicas, Jenn, Stephanie and Kristen, and everyone who helped who put on an amazing talent show. Everyone agreed how smoothly the show ran. The star bags were very well-received so thanks to Jen Z. for those. Question - can Stephanie share the photos she took so we can distribute through HSA News?
- Thank you to Amy and Todd for Wizards - \$30,000 was raised to be divided up among schools for mental health initiatives.

## Treasurer's Report (Shweta Dixit)

- Friends of Orchard raised \$9,800 so far (vs. \$19,000 plan). The difference should be made up quickly with corporate matching and other donations coming in
- 5th Grade has raised \$8,221.73 for end of year celebrations/activities.
  - (Side bar: The Graydon outing for the 5th graders is not happening this year due to lack of lifeguards, but the 5th grade coordinators are coming up with other ideas. Todd Rothman offered Deerkill again and would allow swimming (they can find lifeguards). Also the 5th graders are going to Philadelphia on a field trip for the first time in April which is exciting.
- Book Fair: Actual \$1,521 (vs. projected \$1,000)
- Yearbook: Expenses are at \$12,412.46
- \$500 was taken from staff appreciation to fund sustainable Orchard
- Talent show star bags: Will hear about those numbers at next month's HSA meeting. There are still a few stragglers who haven't paid, which the talent show committee will need to reconcile

## Vice President's Report (Tia Ly via Becky Chin)

- Becky provided an update on the Science Fair (see Committee Reports below)

### **Corresponding Secretary's Report (Sarah McCourt)**

- Sarah indicated that she has nothing to report.

### **Committee Reports**

- **Science Fair (Becky Chin):** 30 participants so far. Deadline is 2/27. There are some great experiment ideas. Those who signed up will receive an email tomorrow (2/24) with that to expect. For parents who signed up to do in-class experiments, a coordinated effort is not happening. For those classes that do not have volunteers, perhaps old videos can be repurposed. Parents will be asked to coordinate with their teacher directly. Becky to send blurb to Sarah McCourt to send to class parents.
- **International Night (Julie Martinez):** This event is being chaired by Julie Martinez and Crystal Cambareri. The event will take place on 3/24. The theme is "We are all pieces of the world". The chairs have a lot of great ideas. Flyer to go out in HSA News on Friday.
- **Reading Marathon (Michelle Elias):** 6 more days left of the reading marathon. All RPS elementary students are eligible and all reading counts. Participants will receive a coupon to Ben & Jerry's. Parents will be asked to make donations to help the Ridgewood Library raise \$10,000. Each Reading Marathon donation of \$25 receives a personalized book plate in a new book of your choosing that will be added to the Ridgewood Library's collection.

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

- Federated Meeting Update (Todd Rothman): Late Start has been approved by the Board of Education (as long as there are no additional costs, in which case it will need re-approval); Superintendent search is ongoing. They have narrowed it down from 40 candidates to 7. The board hopes to have someone on board by May

### **Principal's Report (Mrs. Ferreri)**

- Mrs. Ferreri wanted to let everyone know what an absolute pleasure it is to work in this building. She walked the halls yesterday at 2:30 after the long weekend and what she saw was engaged students and happy teachers. Orchard is a very special place, you can't ask for more. It has been such a typical school year in all of the best ways, and Orchard is very much on the right track
- March "Madness" - March is a very busy month. Mrs. Ferreri has been meeting with Mrs. Rubin, Mrs. Galanti and the classrooms aides to remain proactive for our students during this time
- Update on the outdoor classroom - architect plans have been approved by the

BOE so we are moving in the right direction.

Adjournment

**Important Dates:**

3/9: Author Visit

3/24: International Night