

Orchard Home and School Association November 2023 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 9:12am on November 16, 2023

Attendees (Principal and Board Members): Principal: Mary Ferreri, Co-President: Tia Ly, Co-President: Sarah McCourt, Vice-President: Tina Georgiou (Zoom), Treasurer: Shweta Dixit (Zoom), Assistant Treasurer: Liz Segarra, Corresponding Secretary: Meg DiMattina & Recording Secretary: Crystal Cambareri (Zoom)

Other Attendees: Amy Schaffer, Ruya Kanar, Alex Hayes, Dorothy Bara, Jon Bara, Allison Kamin, Nancy Wong, Jen Zolcinski, Yeliz Kaymak

Approval of the October meeting minutes, Jenna Hammond and Meg DiMattina approved said minutes.

President's Report (Tia Ly):

Thanks everyone who volunteered for Fun Day, Spirit Wear, Birthday Books, Cards for a Cause, Diwali, Family Photo Shoot and Charleston Wrap.

Treasurer's Report (Shweta Dixit):

Our total expenditures \$22,536.45 with \$11,074.96 income. Big chunk this month was contribution to school field trips. Back to school picnic we broke even. Thank you to Patty and Heather for the Back-to-School Picnic. \$4080.53 in membership dues has been received. Fun day totals are still coming in. Tia and 5th grade fundraising team \$5,067.58 so far – Bravo! Turkey Trot Total was \$5,143.74, more than twice which was raised last year.

Thank you to everyone for being so supportive.

ACME shopping bags: Each bag is \$3, for every bag sold \$1 will be donated to Orchard.

Mughda will work with Stop & Shop on bag purchases for Orchard.

Vice-President's Report (Tina Georgiou):

Tina – TICTOC chair Abigail has asked for a co-chair if anyone is interested. Need additional parents in the classroom to volunteer.

Corresponding Secretary's Report (Meg DiMattina):

Reminder to have updates in HSA news info must be sent to Meg by Thursday. Thank you to class parents and everyone for helping and filling in to volunteer and bring in activities.

Committee Reports:

Book Fair (Nancy Wong): They still need volunteers for cashiers

Coffee Cart (Ruya Kanar): All set for Monday. Thank you to the HSA for detailed emails. Will start with 2 carts. Will assess quantities after this first session.

Birthday Books (Sarah McCourt): Wrapped up birthday books. Made \$2300 worth of books for the library. Will start probably by the beginning of December.

Holiday Luncheon: Plans are in the works. Donations and volunteer requests will come soon.

Box tops (Johnny Segarra): Since July 2023 we have earned \$16.91 towards \$1,000 goal. Each box top is worth .10 cents. The class with the biggest contribution will get a surprise and the student with highest contribution will get special surprise. Rewards for winning class is cumulative for whole year. Will be highlighted at CBA.

Auction (Alex Hayes): Western wear recommended. Rodeo theme 4/27 at Ridgewood Women's Club, BBQ dinner, raffles, silent auctions, mechanical bull. Dedicated GroupSpot group for auction. Info for buying tickets will be sent out in HSA News tomorrow, 11/17. We are looking for volunteers.

Co-President's Report (Sarah McCourt):

They attended the federated meeting. The new superintendent seems wonderful and on top of everything. 1st item on agenda was rain on fields and he is working with all parties to figure out a long-term solution. Big discussion about DEI, who will be leading DEI efforts over the school level, HSA or school. If an event is not associated with HSA, it must have a disclaimer stating not associated with HSA for legal purposes.

Each school may have its own Instagram account for promoting school for outside purposes. Twitter is no longer the place Orchard will promote a glimpse or snapshot of what is Orchard school. The HSA will still continue to only use GroupSpot for its communications.

No update from Graydon for fifth grade yet.

Wizards Games, 2 on a Sunday only, 2/25

LRPT 11/9 at 7:30 pm in library, open to everyone. Potential money that auction money will go towards.

Teacher's Report (Mrs. Schaeffer):

The teachers are excited for the book fair and the coffee cart sounds great. They are looking forward to the holiday luncheon.

Principal's Report: (Mrs. Ferreri)

We did have a successful election day. The kids are flexible and staff is amazing. Possibly a day off for students next year on voting day since a presidential election. Nothing confirmed. Still waiting on final BOE results. Thank you for handling congestion at drop off with construction from Ridgewood Water. Normally notified in advance but was not notified today and this should not have happened until after school had started.

Amazing job fundraising with donation to SSA. Jennifer teared up when she received the donation. The amount was significant. Very generous and lovely donation to local community.

Change drive for week back from thanksgiving break. Talks to students about donating towards donating to other children for gifts and end with PJ Day.

The HSA provides school with a budget for team building and the teachers went to Board and Brush in Ramsey. The updated concert dates for school year will be posted in GroupSpot. Kindergarten starts next week.

At the last BOE mtg. the district assessment results were given in an update. Always a live version of the webcast to watch. Get pdf for minutes.

Shweta – our total expenditures \$22,536.45 \$11,074.96 income. Big chunk this month was contribution to school field trips. Back to school picnic we broke even. Thank you to patty and heather and patty for 4080.53 in membership dues. Fun day totals are still coming in. Tia and 5th grade fundraising team \$5,067.58 so far – Bravo! Turkey Trot Total was \$5,143.74, more than twice which was raised last year.

Discussion:

Girl Scouts are collecting scarves, hats, and mittens.

Discussion about doing a clothing collection at Orchard like Somerville does. Also, discussion about a possible hands-on opportunity with the SSA so that the students can contribute. Next year the SSA will be added as a stop on the 3rd grade field trip to town.

The meeting was adjourned 10:08am