**Kyrene de la Sierra**

**P.T.O. General Meeting Minutes**

**March 25, 2014**

**Meeting called to order: 9:01am Meeting Adjourned: 10:15am**

**Attendees:** Mrs. Connor, Monica Gellman, Melissa Lien, Dee Hruschka, Kristin Ito, Chris Zaenglein, Shannon Reagan, Liz Hill, Margo Lipari, Amanda Holtom, Phil Magewick, Cristina Carter, Erin Myers, Kim Schaffer, Niccoli Anderson, Denise Herman, Bob Myers, Sarah Padilla, Kathy Dolny (guest), Wendy Damoli (guest), Jimmy Evans (guest)

**Previous Meeting Minutes:** Monica Gellman moved to approve the November minutes. Minutes approved by all attendees.

Treasury Report**:** by Shannon Reagan

Beg. Balance: $28,853.71

Total Income: $ 28,924.92

Total Expenses: $22,881.17

Ending Balance: $34,897.46

* Shannon reviewed the expense and income changes between February 4th and March 4th with all attendees.

**Principal’s Report:**  by Mrs. Connor

* **Updated Sierra Mission Statement**  - The Sierra Mission Statement is undergoing a revision to more accurately reflect the school’s beliefs, vision, and goals. It will be tied into the more rigorous achievement goals and the new positive behavior plan being implemented at Sierra. The entire Sierra staff has been involved in the update process. The goal is to reenergize the Sierra community by giving teachers a revitalized purpose and to build school spirit among students by promoting a positive, goal-oriented message. To this end, the Sierra school song is also being updated and will be unveiled at April’s PTO Family Movie Night. The new mission will also be branded around the school via new posters and banners. The PTO also plans to include the updated mission statement on next year’s unisex Spirit Wear t-shirt design and on the back of student folders. Sierra will also insure the new mission statement is inline with that of the District, which is also in the process of revamping its own mission statement. Mrs. Connor presented the final draft mission statement, which follows an Acrostic poem format:

**S**ierra Suns

**I**nspire confidence

**E**mpower each other

**R**espect diversity

**R**each for knowledge

**A**chieve excellence

* **April Student Testing**  - Mrs. Connor stressed the importance of sending students to school on time and well fed on test days in April. Student test performance affects school rankings and teacher evaluations. Second graders will take the Standford 10 timed test and 3rd through 5th grade will take the A.I.M.S. Next year these tests are proposed to be replaced by the P.A.R.C.C., which is currently being field-tested in random Arizona schools this year. It is a timed test and theoretically students will take a computerized test.

**Proposals/New Business:** by Monica Gellman & Melissa Lien

* **Student Folders & Agendas** – by Monica Gellman

Melissa Lien moved to approve the purchase of laminated folders for students in grades Kindergarten through 4th and agenda notebooks for 5th graders for the 2014/15 school year at a cost of up to $1,500. This purchase allows the PTO to save money by taking advantage of an early bird discount. Since the expenditure is outside the parameters of the current year’s operating budget, a vote was required. The motion was approved by attendees.

* **Altadena PTSA Presentation** – by Kathy Dolny

The current PTSA President of Altadena Middle School, Kathy Dolny, spoke to Sierra parents about volunteer opportunities on the Board and various committees available to parents of 5th graders for the upcoming school year. A handout was distributed with committee descriptions and volunteer opportunities.

* **Elections/Recruiting** – by Monica Gellman

The Board is seeking nominations for all Board Positions for next year. Although many positions have at least one person nominated, having two persons per position helps share the work load and brings additional perspectives to the board. Nomination forms have been sent home via student backpacks and a parent email will follow shortly. Committee Chairpersons are also being sought. In particular, Fall Festival and Book Fair Chairs are needed.

**Committee Updates:**

* **Family Dance Wrap Up** – by Shannon Reagan
  + The dance was well attended and successful, generating over $200 in income for the PTO.
  + A Chairperson is needed for this event next year, preferably two volunteers to Co-Chair together.
  + Changes for next year include finding a new DJ, no longer selling hot dogs, and renaming the event to “Family Party” to appeal to a broader student base.
* **Read-A-Thon Wrap Up** – Kristin Ito
  + The event was very well run and organized.
  + Every Sierra student received a free book & bracelet. Prizes and incentives have been awarded.
  + There is still a greater need for chapter books.
  + Tammy Dirrigl will return as the Committee Chair next year.
* **5th Grade Promotion** – Chris Zaenglein
  + Vickie Ricks, the event chairperson, noted that the planning process is going well and is on target.
  + Almost all of the photos are in for the DVD that will be shown at the Promotion Ceremony.
  + The 5th graders voted on a tee shirt design and it is ready to go to print in May.
  + Games and activities for the Promotion Celebration are still being planned and organized.
  + Liz Hill has taken over the Communication side of the 5th Grade Promotion. She will continue to help Vickie communicate to parents to send in event payment and provide information updates as needed.
* **Movie Night** – Phil Magewick
  + - This year’s Movie Night will feature Disney’s wildly popular “Frozen” on Friday, April 11th.
    - Sierra’s Marimba Band and student Chorus groups will perform before the movie starts.
* Basic concessions (popcorn, candy, snow cones, and water) will be sold.
* Student Council will be asked to create posters to promote concession sales.
* Movie Night backpack fliers and posters are ready to be distributed & posted around Sierra.
* Approximately 6 parent volunteers are needed. Additionally, 3 parent vehicles are needed to be set up surrounding the seating area to light up the area at the end of the movie.
* Admission is a ream of colored paper. A free bag of popcorn will be given for each donated paper ream.
* As a courtesy, paper reams will also be pre purchased and available for sale at the event.
* 3 Cashboxes are needed with Sierra PTO in charge of managing the monies.
* **Yearbook** – Melissa Lien
  + - 420 yearbooks have been sold. A minimum of 500 books must be ordered; the PTO will purchase 525 books.
    - There are 35 5th grade families who have yet to order their yearbooks.
    - The yearbook has been proofed and is going to print.
* **Staff Appreciation** – Monica Gellman
  + - Heather Ruane and Stephanie Young Co-Chair Staff Appreciation, which will be held the week of May 5th.
    - The theme will be ‘Super Hero’ and will include a catered lunch each day.
    - 60 gift card donations are needed in the range of $10 to $25. They will be raffled off to each staff member. Christine Pike is soliciting donations from businesses and parents are also encouraged to contribute.
    - A request will be sent home asking each student to write a special letter to their teachers to send in that week.
* **PSC Update** – Monica Gellman

Pamela Bridge provided the following overview via Monica for the February P.S.C. meeting. There was no meeting in March; the next meeting will be held in April.

* + - The ‘Taste of Kyrene’ fundraiser has generated $6,000 to date.
    - The ‘Move on When Reading’ law is now in effect this school year. Third graders receiving a ‘fall behind’ score on A.I.M.S, will be retained. These students can take summer school, but may also need to repeat 3rd grade. Students potentially in this category have been identified and are already receiving intervention services.
    - Dr. Taylor provided an overview of how class placement is determined. Parents are encouraged to complete and turn in the Classroom Environment form by April 4th; many factors considered are included on this form.
    - Marketing the Kyrene schools is a priority. Parents are encouraged to make comments on Great Schools and School Digger websites. Exit surveys need to be reviewed to address reasons that parents leaved Kyrene. The district has also been marketing its choice programs (Kyrene Middle School Prep program, Dual Language schools, Traditional, etc...) to compete with BASIS and other charter schools.

“Respectfully Submitted”

Chris Zaenglein, March 31, 2014

Chris Zaenglein

Margo Lipari, March 31, 2014

Margo Lipari