

Kyrene de la Sierra
P.T.O. General Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2013

Meeting called to order: 9:03am

Meeting Adjourned: 10:07am

Attendees: Mrs. Connor, Melissa Lien, Monica Gellman, Dee Hruschka, Kristin Ito, Chris Zaenglein, Shannon Reagan , Margo Lipari, Gail Kronick, John Werner, Karen Werner, Niccoli Anderson, Kimberly Tussing, Marianne Luken, Denise Truman-Herman, Robin Carey, Liz Hill, Tamie Dirrigl, Pam Bridge, Gina Jones, Bethany Davis, Nicole McNeil, Kim Schaffer, Stephanie Pinteric, Stephanie Young, Heather Ruane, Valerie Mittleman, Shannon Joyner , Erin Myers, Karen Pettit, Kathy Dalton, Harmony Hess, Brittney Strubbe, Robin Keary, Michael Reagan, Bob Myers, Jennifer Breeding, Melissa Orender.

Minutes approved by: Melissa Lien moved to approve April 2013 minutes. Minutes approved by all attendees.

Parent Superintendent Council Report: by Pam Bridge

- The Superintendent Council meets one time per month. Pam Bridge attends these meetings and makes the meeting minutes available to all of Sierra. Parents set the agenda for each meeting. If anyone has a concern or issue they want discussed they can contact Pam. All parents are welcome to attend.
- The next meeting will discuss ways to include all students in the school environment. Last month's meeting discussed a way to raise money for Sierra.
- Right now there is a fundraiser going on that will raise money for the Kyrene Foundation as well as for Sierra. A ticket may be purchased for \$10.00. \$5.00 of this goes directly to Sierra. If your ticket is drawn in the raffle you win a Disney trip or a Lego Land trip. Also, when you purchase a ticket you are automatically invited to attend a shopping event at the GAP and receive 25% off of your purchase that night. You can go online to purchase tickets.
- November election – Kyrene is asking for permission to sell two parcels of land the district owns. Kyrene is also asking for votes supporting the Maintenance Override. This has to pass every five years. It passed in 2010 and Kyrene is trying to renew it. It is placed on the ballot each year because it does not generally pass right away. If this is not passed by 2015 Kyrene will lose \$2 million, or \$600 per student. Sierra and Monte Vista have the lowest voter turnout so please go out and vote.

Treasury Report: by Shannon Reagan

- Proposed 2013-2014 PTO budget:
 - Beginning Balance: \$28,853.71
 - Total Income: \$28,450.00
 - Total Expenses: (\$40,995.00)
 - Ending Balance: \$16,308.71
- Shannon reviewed the proposed 2013-2014 PTO budget and the banking summary line by line. **Shannon moved to approve the proposed budget. Approved by all attendees.**
- As of September 17, 2013, the PTO has had \$481.34 in income and \$9,291.87 in expenses, with a starting cash balance of \$28, 853.71. The ending cash balance as of September 17th is \$20,043.18.

Principal's Report: Mrs. Connor

- A new theme has been created this year for the teachers, "That's How We Roll". The teachers give kudos to each other, all with the goal of building collaboration and relationships amongst the teachers.
- **3rd Grade and Reading:** Move On in Reading is a program that is now mandated by the state. The law states that a 3rd grader needs to read fluently and comprehend what they are reading. Kids who fall far below (FFB) will be retained in 3rd grade. Mrs. Connor's goal is for every child to move on to 4th grade and a lot of effort is being made to ensure that this happens.
- **Student Recognition** – This year the Sierra Sun Shout Out and the Recognition Tree programs have been combined. Each teacher has a form they complete when they want to recognize a child for outstanding behavior. This form is submitted to the front office daily and each student is called to pick up their certificate in Mrs. Connor's office. The student's name is read on the morning announcements. Pictures are taken of the students and hung on the recognition wall outside of the library.
- **Watch D.O.G.S.** - This program is about having dads volunteer for a day at Sierra. Mrs. Connor and Mrs. Westermann are in full support of this program.
 - Nine schools in Arizona currently participate in this program.
 - Sierra's launch date is mid-October.
 - There will be a kick-off pizza party Wednesday, October 2nd at 6:00pm in the MPR. The goal is to have 50-75 dads participate in this program during the first half of the school year.
 - Mrs. Westermann is the coordinator and will take care of scheduling the volunteer's time. A survey will be sent to each teacher to get input for what the dads can do while at the school.
 - A few examples of what the dads will be doing during the day include greeting the kids as they come to school, setting up and playing games with the students at recess, and saying goodbye as the student's depart for the day. They will also spend some time in their child's classroom.
 - This is not just for dads; it includes male role models such as uncles, brothers, and grandfathers.
 - A table will be set up at Bingo night to begin getting the word out.

Proposals/New Business:

- **Proposed changes to by-laws** – the following is a summary of the proposed changes to the Sierra PTO Bylaws:
 - The PTO debit or ATM card; the President, Treasurer or Financial Administrator, plus one other Executive Board member must sign off on all purchases. All charges will be a 'credit' as opposed to a debit to receive additional bank protection.
 - A draft budget will be created and approved before the end of the school year so that the incoming Executive Board members are able to spend PTO monies until the final budget is approved in the fall.
 - Requests for \$400 or less can be voted on by the Executive Board, while requests in excess of \$400.00 will be taken to the General Meeting for a broader vote.
 - The Volunteer Coordinator shall have administrative permissions for volunteer management software programs and use same to recruit volunteers and send communications.
 - **The proposed changes to the bylaws were voted on and approved. Bylaws have been officially amended.**
- **Rachel's Challenge** – Mrs. Wainwright
 - The purpose of the elementary program is to encourage elementary school students to live a life of purpose, do simple acts of kindness, create a chain reaction of kindness, and to be in control of his or her day.
 - The program includes two assemblies, one evening community event, and a program guide for teachers.

- This program costs \$4,000. The PTO is asking for approval to spend \$3,000 of PTO funds on this program. The remaining \$1,000 will come from other sources of funding.
- Lisa Conner supports this program and believes it will help Sierra to stand out, and it will further help connect students to the Five Pillars of Character.
- **Melissa Lien motioned to approve this expenditure. Approved by all attendees.**

Committee / Activity Updates:

- **Volunteer Coordinator** – by Kristin Ito
 - Kristin discussed why a volunteer coordinator is needed for each classroom. This volunteer will be responsible for coordinating volunteers for the Fall Festival. A request will be sent to each classroom to recruit for this position.
 - A few volunteers are still needed for Bingo Night and Gallery Night.

- **Student Directory** – by Melissa Lien
 - The student directory is finished and will be distributed by the end of September.

- **Fall Fundraiser** – by Niccoli Anderson
 - Approximately \$6,100.00 has been collected to date.
 - Soft goal is \$14,000.00, stretch goal is \$20,000.00.
 - Donations can be made online. Go to the Sierra PTO website.

- **Fall Festival** – by Denise Truman-Herman
 - This event needs 200 volunteers. Volunteer coordinators will help to coordinate the volunteer effort by recruiting and scheduling volunteers from their child’s classroom.
 - A lot of help is needed the day of the event.
 - Student Council will organize the pumpkin walk.
 - There will be games, bounce houses, a costume contest, a DJ, and more.
 - This event is Friday, October 25th.

- **Spiritwear** – by Chris Zaenglein
 - Orders are in the process of being fulfilled by our suppliers.
 - Hair ties will be available for purchase at Bingo Night.

- **Yearbook**– by Kimberly Tussing
 - Kimberly read off a list of teachers that need a parent volunteer to be the contact for collecting photos for that classroom.
 - Yearbooks can be ordered online.

“Respectfully Submitted”

Margo Lipari, September 20, 2013

Margo Lipari

Chris Zaenglein, September 20, 2013

Chris Zaenglein