



PTO General Meeting Minutes

Kyrene de la Sierra

16 February 2018

Meeting Called to Order: 9:05 am

Attendees: Lisa Conner, Shannon Reagan, Niccoli Anderson, Heather Ruane, Alison Pinkston, Tara Bellino, Paula Baxter, Kimberly Tussing, Julie Daris, Dee Hruschka, Monica Gellman, Scott Determan, Cindy Taylor, Kimberly Brown, Robin Carey, Erin Myers

Welcome: Shannon Reagan

Shannon welcomed all to the meeting and explained in lieu of reviewing general meeting notes, the treasury report and going over important dates there was a handout with all the above mentioned information. This would all the focus of the meeting to be on the information Principal Lisa Conner had to share with the group.

Principal Report: Lisa Conner

Sierra's A+ Enrollment Status: A+ Program is funded by the Arizona Educational Foundation, a nonprofit organization here in Arizona. Sierra applied for the A+ Award last year but did not make it past the application process. This time the application went through many revisions and at the beginning of January Sierra's application packet was submitted. This year, Sierra has made it past the application portion of the approval process and has a site visit scheduled for February 26th and 27th. If Sierra is approved for the A+ award it will be made known to the school in April. When receiving the award the school receives \$500 and gets to keep the prestigious recognition for 3 years. The A+ Award helps to set the school apart from others. The award helps to show that Sierra cares about the school, the students and our community.

Future Preschool on Sierra Campus: Sierra is set to have two different types of preschools operating on campus. The first will be an Early Learning Center that is ran by Kyrene Community Education. This option works great for working parents, as it is all day option consisting of both a preschool and a day care. The ELC would be for children 3-4 years old. The ELC is set to be ran out of the old apartment located at Sierra. The ELC will be self-contained and have its own playground. The other preschool option will be a Developmental Preschool. The Developmental Preschool is moving from Cerritos and the current preschool from Cerritos will be transitioning over as well. The Developmental Preschool will be an option for 3-4 year olds with a mix of 2/3rds typical students and 1/3rds students with special needs. A meeting to discuss the construction plans for the preschools will take place next week. It is currently anticipated that the preschool drop off and pick up locations will be located near the preschools. It is not known at this time if there will be one or two sessions of preschool (meaning both a morning and an afternoon option). A question was asked if the families and children enrolled in the preschool would be able to participate in school functions. Lisa said that is something that will be decided. Another question was asked if there would be more

parking somehow available at the school. Lisa said she would bring this up during her meeting with facilities the following week to look at options available. When a question was asked how to decide which preschool to utilize if the families need after school care the answer was given that this is still to be determined. After a question arose about where money from the two preschools will go Lisa explained that money from the ELC will go back to Kyrene Community Education where they will be running the ELC and money from the Developmental Preschool would go back to Sierra where this preschool would roll up through Sierra. The money from the Developmental Preschool would be used to help offset the increased operating costs at the school due to the preschool. A question was asked if the 3 and 4 year olds would be split into two different classes. An answer was given that no, they will be blended. Just as is seen in kindergarten and 1st grade with different ages and development statuses. The idea with the preschool is that it will feed into Sierra. Enrollment for preschool will start on March 29th at 6:30 am. Paula Baxter commented that the preschool teacher does a good job of preparing the children for kindergarten.

2018/2019 Student Placement: Lisa explained that teachers think about each student as a whole kid and their individual needs when working to determine what class they should go into. She explained how each grade spends at least 2 hours with the teachers from a current grade going over each name – each student’s academic, social, and development needs along with balancing the genders, academics, behaviors, gifted students, IEP students, ethnicity, social needs, and friends for each class. Teachers will then take all of that information to come up with well-balanced classes for the year. Parents can fill out an environmental form to aid teachers in deciding which class would be the best fit. Parents cannot request specific teachers and cannot request a student to be in a class with a specific friend. They can fill out the form to explain any needs the student may have or may be helpful for the student (i.e. their student needs a firm teacher, etc). Lisa recommends filling out the form to help place children but it will not guarantee specific teachers or that friends will be in the same class.

Questions: The following questions were asked and answered following the informational sharing period by Lisa.

- Q. How many teachers will there be for the preschool? 1
- Q. Will there be priority for Sierra families? Current preschool students at Cerritos will have priority
- Q. Why is the preschool moving from Cerritos to Sierra? Cerritos has more of a population. The move will help to balance out school sizes.
- Q. Does Mrs. Conner feel good about the expansion and the developmental preschool rolling up into her staff? Lisa shared that she is excited

Wrap Up: Shannon Reagan

Shannon thanked everyone for coming and Lisa for sharing the information with all in attendance. She then reviewed the upcoming calendar events and gave a plug for individuals to sign up to volunteer at events. Shannon shared that the PTO Board had voted and the movie being shown at the Spring Movie Night would be Coco.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:46 am

Meeting Notes Submitted By:

Stephanie Nuttall
Sierra PTO co-Secretary
February 2018