

Kyrene de la Sierra
P.T.O. General Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2013

Meeting called to order: 9:05am

Meeting Adjourned: 10:02am

Attendees: Rhonda Jones, Monica Gellman, Gail Kronick, Margo Lipari, Melissa Lien, Terri Keaton, Tausha Sailors, John Werner, Helen Baker, Mr. Maloney, Lisa Connor, Theresa Lederer, Marianne Luken, Niccoli Anderson, Brittny Strubbe, Beth Hare, Gina Jones, Kathy Banko, Christie Ellis, Chris Zaenglein, Kristin Ito, Lynn Presley, Elizabeth Bemane, Dee Hruschka, Kimberly Tussing, Erin Myers, Sharron L. Sauls, Carol Phillips-Chen, Kim Schaffer, John Schaffer.

Minutes approved by: Rhonda Jones moved to approve December minutes. Minutes approved by all attendees.

Treasury Report: (2/8/2013-3/13/2012)

Beginning Cash Balance	\$36,635.33
Total Income	\$28,693.73
Total Expenses	\$22,180.40
Ending Cash Balance	\$43,148.66

Budget Highlights:

- Terri Keaton highlighted PTO finances from January 2013-present.

Principal's Report: Report given by Mr. Maloney

- Sierra is seeking an A+ rating. We will need a percentage increase of test scores to go from an A school to an A+ school. The process also looks at PTO participation and survey results.
- Sierra needs about 40 more parking spaces. Mr. Maloney encouraged parents to contact the district and request additional parking.
- Mr. Maloney highlighted several financial needs for 2013-14, to include:
 - Core Curriculum workbooks for grades 3-5 (\$4,000.00-6,000.00.)
 - A crossing guard/cafeteria/playground aide. (If parents know of anyone interested in the position, please have them contact the office.)
- KSD is considering retaining 3rd grade students who cannot meet standards, though it is not clear when this might start. Mr. Maloney encouraged parents to communicate with teachers, get tutors if needed, etc., to make sure students meet state testing standards.
- Next year, Sierra could use some volunteers to help in the cafeteria the first few weeks of school.
- Kindergarten orientation went well. Sierra already has 1.5 full kindergarten classrooms enrolled. Many families have been touring the school.
- It does not appear that any Sierra teachers will lose their jobs this year, though they may be placed in other areas. This is good for morale, because moving teachers does not impact their retirement calculation.
- AIMS testing is April 15-19. Mr. Maloney encouraged parents to get their children to school on time that week, make sure they are well rested and have eaten breakfast on those days.
- A Volunteer Recognition Ice Cream Social will be held May 2nd at 6:30, recognizing all who have volunteered at Sierra during the school year. This is not a PTO event.
- Mr. Maloney showed one of the completed frames for the History Wall.

- Mr. Maloney introduced Lisa Connor, new Sierra principal for 2013-14. Mrs. Connor briefly addressed the attendees, giving a short biography, and indicating her excitement and commitment to working at Sierra. Her official start date is July 1st, but she will be at Sierra several times before that, including attending our next general PTO meeting. Mrs. Connor also indicated her shared desire to see Ms. Westermann be assigned to Sierra full time. She encouraged parents to attend the next school board meeting, or direct their suggestions about Ms. Westermann's placement to Dr. Gina Taylor. PTO will provide parents with information about the next school board meeting. Mrs. Connor welcomed questions after the meeting.

Committee/Activity Updates:

- **Read-a-Thon**
 - Kristin Ito reported that she received great feedback on the speaker, Jim Cogan, and the Hometown Heroes program.
 - Incentive certificates have already been distributed to the students who participated in the Read-a-Thon, and she will soon be announcing the winners of the drawings for lunch with Mr. Maloney and the Peter Piper Pizza tickets.
 - The book walk was rained out, but rescheduled and held on March 22nd. In the future, we will need more higher-reading-level books for the book walk. There were not enough this year.
- **Restaurant Nights**
 - Christie Ellis reported that this month's event is at Native New Yorker on March 27th (lunch and dinner). They will donate 20% of the proceeds, but you must present the flier.
 - Restaurants are lining up for next year.
- **Yearbook**
 - Kimberly Tussing reported that about 430 books have been ordered. Love Lines are finished and the 5th grade section is almost complete. She is about to submit the product and will receive a proof soon. Yearbooks will be ready for distribution at the end of the school year.
- **Movie Night**
 - Rhonda reported that Movie Night will be April 19th. The movie is "Wreck It Ralph". PTO paid \$400 to license the movie. We will be asking parents to bring a ream of paper in exchange for admission. The Sierra Marimba Band will perform.
 - Phil Magewick is chair of this event.
- **History Wall**
 - The frames will be up at the Volunteer Recognition event on May 2nd.
 - Rhonda Jones, Arryn Bronson and Theresa Lederer have been working on the frames, and are currently pricing the cost of mounting the frames. KSD has approved the project.
 - The deadline for the project to be completed is April 26th. Volunteers are sought to help - usually on Fridays from 10:00am-noon.
- **Teacher Appreciation Week**
 - This will occur May 5-10.

- Tammy Fielding is the chairperson, and is seeking donations of gift cards to be given to staff, as well as volunteers to help with lunches, decorating the staff lounge, etc.

▪ **New Business**

- We will be electing new officers on April 22nd. Rhonda asked parents to be watching for a nomination form that will be sent out via Listserv. Rhonda also highlighted open board positions and committees that need chairing. Board positions currently open are President, Co-Secretary, Communications Coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator. The following committees need chairpersons as of March 25, 2013: Turkey Trot, Yearbook (co-chair needed), Family Dance, Movie Night, Teacher Appreciation, and 5th Grade Celebration
- **Need for Volunteers** – Sign-up sheets were passed around for a few activities left in this school year.

Next general PTO Meetings are April 22nd and May 13th. Both meetings will be at 9:00 am in the MPR.

“Respectfully Submitted”

Monica Gellman, March 31, 2013

Monica Gellman

Margo Lipari, March 31, 2013,

Margo Lipari