

**Arleta PTA General Meeting**  
**September 14th, 2021 6:00-7:30pm**

**Attendees:** Carrie Bowers, Tracy Hulleman, Heather Pearson, Melissa Sircy, Kristi Lovato, Nicole Irish, Denise Castañon, Erin Frank, Tim and Tera Williams, Lara Carlisle, Amy Waggoner, John Horn, Sarah Johnson, Sheryl Moren, Chelsea Doré, Jarod Jacobs, Melissa Olin, Kyle Phillips, Monica Caravian-DeGroot, Gisell, Adinah D'Andrea, Elin Mclain, Racheal Gottgetreu, Sondra Blair, Margaret M, Anna Matviyenko

**Call to Order:** The meeting was officially called to order by Co-President Heather Pearson at 6:06pm.

**Welcome:** Heather Rose- welcomed the group and provided the definition of a community; encouraged the sharing of e-mails to stay in touch.

**Introductions:** all in attendance were invited to introduce themselves, share their role in PTA if applicable, share about their family including children's grade levels and teachers, and state a goal or hope for the year for the Arleta Community.

**Shared Goals and Hopes for Arleta:**

- Find ways to connect and hear from families in a 2 way format vs just information being passed down in one way communication
- Create a community gathering space and community hub for our neighborhood
- An outdoor gathering space
- Bring back the Maker Faire
- Lift up voices that are not always represented; include ALL members of our community; partner with counselors, teachers and SUN staff to help increase inclusivity.
- Continue to keep up and grow the Arleta Garden
- Find ways to support families at Arleta
- Fix the kiln to offer ceramics for students
- Create a new start for Arleta now that it has reduced from a K-8 to a K-5
- Make a large investment in the grounds of Arleta
- Provide resources- such as backpack programs, clothing closets to bridge gaps for families
- Multicultural Inclusion Activities
- Design Posters/Flyers/Social Posts
- Increase accessibility for all students
- Have one member from every family represented in the PTA
- Increase/improve translations of flyers and other modes of information
- Increase sustainability/green practiced at Arleta
- Improve the Clothing Closet
- Establish Garden Educator Program
- Continue with the Theater Program

- Party Planning Committees- ways for us to stay connected (Halloween dance, virtual activities etc)

We will see the budget for the year and solicit feedback from Arleta families on what should be our spending priorities.

**Raffle:** Tonight's raffle drawing (sponsored by the inclusion committee) included all in attendance except the board members and was a gift card to the Colombia Store. Denise Canastrone announced the winner- Rachael G.

#### **Announcements:**

John Horn- we will be hiring an **Art Teacher**, interviews this week.

Erin Frank explained **Maker Faire**- a yearly event for STEM/STEAM projects like egg drop, hands on projects etc that is put on by parents and teachers.

Heather Pearson: Annual Halloween Dance- hoping to bring back other community events if possible; **Does anyone have ideas that are Covid safe?** please join the "party committee" if you have suggestions.

Arleta will be hosting a shift at the **PTA Clothing Closet** on 10/7. Volunteers needed. Please contact Sharon Meigh-Chang at 503-293-0783 or [ptaclothingcenter@comcast.net](mailto:ptaclothingcenter@comcast.net). Click here for additional information <https://www.pps.net/Page/7073>

Anyone is welcome to **contact PTA** Board members and/or check out our Facebook pages! Please get in touch and make suggestions! Arletaschoolpta@gmail.com

Carrie Bowers: PTA is hosting a **Listening session next Tuesday at 7pm via Zoom**- come if you would like an opportunity to chat; no business

Arleta Community Listening Session hosted by Arleta PTA  
Time: Sep 21, 2021 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82297065527?pwd=RU1mRU1zcXB4WFVtTmZpaEdwK2E4QT09>

Meeting ID: 822 9706 5527  
Passcode: 063330

Dial by your location  
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
Meeting ID: 822 9706 5527  
Passcode: 063330

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8441111111>

**Teacher Appreciation:** Erin Frank reported the goal of the committee is to show teachers support and appreciation; They will provide food during conferences in November and will give teachers love during Teacher Appreciation week in May. The goal will be to try to do something monthly. For September, Erin made care packages and bagels and coffee will be provided next month; Last year there was an Alpaca for photo opportunities. Any suggestions are welcome!

**Garden Club:** Sondra Blair reports that she has been running the club for at least 6 years, Over the years they have added a message board and picnic tables; native garden, pollinator garden, and expanded from 4 to 9 garden beds. She would like to grow the garden club and reintroduce the garden educator program so the students can get out in the garden and explore more; Someone from Zenger Farms who is a 4/5th grade educator is interested in coming on as a garden educator; at Arleta. The garden needs some TLC and work on its infrastructure as things are getting weathered and there has unfortunately been some vandalism. She would like someone to post pictures on Facebook to help increase activities and give ideas and get them to come to fruition; She has been looking for someone to be the chair to keep the garden club going; Sondra has lots of materials and resources to offer. The Garden Club has hosted 2 main fundraisers in the past including poinsettias in December and a hanging basket from Tony's in May and she would like to bring these back.

**Fundraising:** Melissa Olin- reports that Arleta is not in a dire need to raise funds and the focus will be less on getting more money and more on building community and bringing everyone together; She plans to continue with Dine-in/ Dine out- Char and Higgins Bagels is hosting a Dine Out soon. There will be a fundraiser with Bella Organic for corn maze tickets; If you take a picture of yourself in the maze and post to Arleta and Bella and you will be entered in a raffle for a gift basket - on November 1st

**Theater Club/Auditorium Improvement committee:** Heather Pearson will submit a proposal to improve the auditorium PA system and lighting. Currently, it is challenging for kids to sit through assemblies because they can't hear or see, and it's frustrating for speakers as well; The theater club is planning a winter show and may do something outdoors with giant puppets- stay tuned!

**Inclusion Committee:** Sheryl Moren reports she wanted things to feel different this year when the kids returned to school. They put up decorations and 202 country flags in the cafeteria along with Pride Flags, bulletin boards emphasizing that we are a welcoming community and hung Welcome Signs/balloons. We put together a hygiene station- can access through Aud (the school counselor) - includes deodorant, feminine pads, body wipes, hair ties, combs, pics, etc There are PTA suggestion boxes- near the main office as a place to give feedback and offer suggestions about what families want. Translation services are being looked into, as well as a diversity & inclusion section in the library. They are working with Teresa Street who wants to purchase books with library binding so they will be durable and have a big variety of diverse books for all grade levels;

The committee is also collecting fidgets and sensory motor items for the classrooms. Teachers can check out certain items from the counselor's office- including various items like pop its, monkey noodles, etc and weighted vests, belts, lap pads; noise reduction headphones etc. Diversity/equity/social justice presentations will be starting again in Oct.

**Family Engagement:** Nicole Irish reports with Covid she will be more of a support person and feels that family engagement goals align with the Inclusion Committee; She may do a survey to find out what the needs are of the community are in order to serve those needs better for family engagement; She is brainstorming Covid friendly events and would like to get a budget, Hygiene station services BIPOC families- hair picks, etc; and she would like to keep the hygiene station replenished; She really wants everyone to feel invited and know that their kids are in a warm safe place and have it feel like an extended family. She has been handing out flyers at school to extend a warm invitation into the PTA

**Principal Update:**

John Horn reports that the impact of the inclusion committee is obvious. Kids are now sitting on blue pads- these will need to be cleaned. Everything about this year is cumbersome right now and he appreciates Carrie and Sheryl for their help.

We are not allowed to have tents right now.

They are starting to practice with inside lunches- 8 people at a table and will be experimenting; because the rain is coming. They will also experiment with inside recess as the weather changes;

We are doing a great job following health protocols; if you have a child that is ill or someone in the household is sick let the principal know and it will be kept confidential; Please do not assume a child has covid if they are out;

If a child is in quarantine what will it look like? There are no additional teachers to support this and there will be no online learning; You will continue to have your child supported in some way just not sure how it will look yet, Your student is counted as present if they make a phone call, send an email or make some contact with the teacher/school; Teachers may need to be quarantined too. There is a sense of urgency to do all the right things to keep everyone safe; Please remind and practice with our kids to keep 3 feet of space

Changes with drop off and pick up routines have been implemented and helpful.

A breakout room was provided for those who wanted to continue in conversation with John.

**Minutes:** Our minutes from May 26th, 2021, were accepted into record without changes.

**Budget Report:** Melissa Rinehimer shared the interim budget that was approved by the board. There was small amount of income from Amazon and other donations (\$500)

Some expense for administration funds and teacher appreciation.  
Maker Faire would like to be included in the budget;  
We reiterated that we would like to budget to reflect community needs.  
The new budget will be voted on at the next meeting on October 12th.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Signed into record with / without changes on \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary