

Grant PTA Meeting

April 12, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Jessica Lieder at 6:38 p.m.

Members Present: Jessica Leider, Dan Sakai, Alisa Loigman, Rachel Kennedy, Juliet Davenport, Steve Gillespie, Laura More

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ann Anthony to approve the minutes as written and was seconded by Steve Gillespie. The motion passed.

Administrative Updates – Kathy Lorden

The second class for parents was held today about growth mindset and grit – 23 parents participated. The class has been well received. There are two more sessions on Tuesdays at 1:00.

There was a meeting today with the technology teachers to plan for next year.

There was an event with the Mission Hills Garden Club this past weekend. The event went well and a donation was received for the garden.

Campus security – one of the side gates will be chained shut on the weekend starting at 3:30 on Fridays to help increase campus security on the weekend.

The sixth graders are at camp this week.

Update from Sargent Contreras with the SD School District Police Department. There have been some recent issues at Grant since July 2015 4-5 incidents of vandalism and/or arson. Have had officers come out on the weekends and did surveillance on the campus. Made some arrests which are going through the court system. There have been some recent incidents of vandalism. Encouraged parents and community members to keep an eye out for suspicious behavior at the school after hours and on weekends. School Watch program – get a group of officers, staff members, parents and distribute cards and fridge magnets with school police information on it to homes and businesses around the perimeter of the school – encourage people to call the 24 hour dispatch service to support any reports of issues. Would like to organize an event with his Safe School team – Jessica Lieder will be the point of contact and will ask for other volunteers to reach out to the neighbors. Students Speaking Out program – geared towards Middle School and High School students – can text report of crimes. If tips lead to an arrest there is a cash award. They are actively working the case. May be helpful to have occasional police presence to help remind drivers of the cone zone rules.

Fundraising Update

Gala Update – Anna Lowe and Dana Lingard

The Gala is on April 22nd from 6-10 at Stone Brewery. Tickets are available at the Chatio on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Almost all of the teachers are coming. Have about 110 tickets sold. Have about 40 tickets left for sale. There will be a movie night at the school open to all children at the school – there are 3 teachers from Kids Corner who will be supervising for a total of 30 children. Jen

Cavanaugh Smith is included. It is only for school age children only – TK-8 grade. The movie night will be from 5:30-9:30. There have been some challenges with purchasing tickets online. Please let Dana or Anna know if they have had any challenges in purchasing the tickets. There are a lot of items available for the auction. A house in Palm Desert, a wine event and a beer event. There will be pizza provided for the movie night. Online there is a list of the sponsors and donors. The live auction and teacher experiences are featured on the website as well. Dress code – is a bit more casual this year, jeans are fine, dresses are fine too.

Other fundraising updates – Jessica Lieder

Motion to extend the PTA's insurance to cover the Movie Night at grant on April 22nd – motion by Jill Baltan, second by Alisa Loigman.

Budget Update – Committee has met a couple of times and the budget will be developed over the next few weeks. A draft budget will be presented at the May PTA meeting and will be put forward for a vote at the June PTA meeting. Encourage attendance at future meetings.

Nominating Committee – Laura More

The position of Treasurer is still open. Laura summarized Article V of the By-laws, which was also included on the back of the PTA agenda and posted online. Whoever is on the Board needs to be a member of the PTA. This PTA will have a President and an Executive President, 2 vice presidents, treasure, historian, parliamentarian, and a secretary. PTA dues must be paid. Anyone who signs the checks cannot be related by blood, marriage, or live in the same household.

Dan Sakai- read the slate of nominees: For president it is a 2 year commitment – Dan is the President, Jessica is the Executive President and will also be serving next year. Juliet will be continuing in the position of VP 1, Ann Anthony VP 2, Taline Tokatlian – Historian, Laura More – Parliamentarian, Rachel Kennedy Secretary. The list of officers was elected by voice vote. We are still working on filling the treasurer and the auditor positions. Vicky Knapp will do to the year-end audit.

ASB Update – Steve Gillespie

A week from Thursday is the next spirit day – the theme is “photo safari day.” Any animal costume, dress like a tourist, etc.

Will have an earthquake drill on April 19th.

May 5th Bike to School Date – Lara Gates will be leading an effort for the day of the event.

May 6th – Middle School Semi-formal spring dance. 6-8 p.m. Motion to extend the PTA insurance to cover the Middle School Spring Dance on May 6th – motion was made by Alisa Loigman, seconded by Ann Anthony. The motion passed.

Looking to do a 8th grade event (not a school event) dance, bowling, and X Box room at the Aztec Center – this is an outside event.

Will try and get the ASB involved in the campus security.

Imagine Campaign and Foundation – Julie Morgan

Congratulate all the participants in the 1st Annual 5K – sold out at 600 – we ran out of bibs. Will look to have 700-800 participants next year. We had great business sponsorships and participation from other community members. Netted about \$15,000.

Continuing to extend the scholarship offering for afterschool classes. Thanks to all of the vendors for helping to offer scholarships.

We have been gifted with a scholarship from the Aberdeen Foundation. Will be creating some programs for girls in STEM areas. Looking at programs in coding, engineering, robotics.

The Imagine Campaign has raised over \$57,000 so far. Better than last year. Have received about \$5700 in matching funds.

The Foundation has been working with Ad Hoc Science Committee – Fiona Case is leading the effort and working to understand the next generation science standards – which will be required for the science curriculum in 2 years. Looking at how other schools around the country/world and things they are doing. The group has toured Lewis Middle school which has applied a version of the Thinkofit Lab at Qualcomm. Will also be visiting the labs at La Jolla Country Day School.

The Capital Campaign Committee – requested funds from the Foundation for the Gecko Garden. Working with them to understand how we can get funding for it. Lara Gates is heading the committee and has applied for a \$5000 grant and is working with the Mission Hills Garden club to look for contributions. This is Julie's 3rd and final year as Foundation President.

Treasurer Update – Alisa Loigman

The draft budget will be put forward next year. One of the items to be discussed is looking at possibly running a loss next year and using some reserve funds to divert some of the Imagine Campaign funds to the Gecko Garden. What is the likelihood that we will need to draw on the reserves to fund teacher positions, or other large items? Don't want to sit on a large reserve, funds should be used to benefit the school. Would still keep some reserves for unanticipated funds. Lydia Bilak – should look at expenses of fundraisers and the amount they bring in. Have had great success with Imagine Campaign with less than \$2000 in expenses and raised \$57,000. The 5K took in \$30,000 but netted \$15,000 but also included the community and students. The Fundraising Committee is looking at the success of the various fundraisers, timing, etc. Want to have a list of the major fundraising events for the year on a calendar in the school welcome package.

Roundtable

Ann Anthony – Ms. Ashe's art class participated in the Read Poetry Out Loud and art program a few of our Middle schoolers are being honored and their art work will be on display at the Mission Valley Library.

Model UN Program – a few of our students were selected to have their papers read – a big accomplishment. Appreciate the support of the PTA for the art program and other programs at the school. May 18-19 – Model UN. Thank you to the PTA for sponsoring the busses to the event.

Amy Krizinski – PE Teacher – will have a spring showcase on June 2nd from 6 to 7 to collect used sporting equipment you may no longer want.

11 students were entered in the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair and all of them placed. 1 7th grade and 3 eight grade students will be going on to the CA state science Fair which will held in LA in May.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm by Jessica Lieder.