

Grand Canyon School PTA Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2018

Grand Canyon School, Room 207

In attendance:

President Cherie Benefield, Vice President Betsy Donehoo, Secretary Kim Besom, Pam Edwards, Cory Clark, Brenda Clark, Linda Rakow-Schenkoske, Dan Tobin, Kara Chenevert, Craig Chenevert, Peg Lyle, Amanda Heller

Agenda

Call to Order, Welcome Members & Guests

Thanks to:

- a. Adult/student volunteers watching kids for meeting!
- b. Culinary Class for snacks

Approval of 11/30/17 Minutes

School Update - School Admin if present

Treasurer's Report - Cherie Benefield

Old Business

- a. New Treasurer -
 - i. Since Slim, Cherie has been keeping records, transactions with other officers' okay. Need to resolve for accounting purposes. Difficulty re: bank with proper PTA personnel/records for "change-over," blessing in disguise. ALSO, our bank account now has a Debit card, to make purchases easier. Currently just in Cherie's name.
 - ii. Dan to act as Advocacy Committee Chairman instead of treasurer. Also, working with Laura and St. Mary's to expand the food program. Looking into "snack" program, and other ideas.
 - iii. Cory Clark has volunteered for treasurer, pending other nominations
 1. Election after other "Old Business"
- b. St. Mary's BackPacks - now serving 54 kids!
 - i. Laura managing volunteers. Rosa and Cherie handling the handouts
 - ii. Beginning this week, may change distribution to dropping off packs in classrooms, since some kids "not showing up"
- c. Fundraising Efforts
 - i. Second Bonfire T-shirt campaign, over \$170 profit
 - ii. Bracelet sales and old shirt sales - lukewarm during Basketball - other
 - iii. Need more help selling
 - iv. Smile.Amazon.com - encourage use
- d. STEM Night - details - Sara or Kaylyn?
- e. Movie Night? - Kim
- f. Driver's Ed program still being worked on by Betsy & Kim

New Business

- a. Treasurer Election
- b. Advocacy Update
 - i. January 6 March, no participation
 - ii. Possible Voter Registration Drive
 - iii. Committee Members?
- c. Teachers Wish List
 - i. "Class Wish" limits purchases to their own vendors

- ii. Proposal - email to teachers re: "if you have needs..." Deadline January 30 (?).
Then review by committee
- iii. "Approved/easy vendor" Amazon or Teacher may purchase on own, up to approximate amount, then be reimbursed
- iv. COMMITTEE NEEDED to approve purchases?
- v. Need to figure way to replenish funds...
- a. Teacher Appreciation - Kim or Betsy
- b. Honor Roll Locker decorations - Lisa Otto?

Meeting Days/Times

- a. February ?

Adjournment

Meeting

There were no guest speakers or representatives from the school administration.

Approval of 11/30/17 minutes

Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Cherie presented the Treasurer's Report. Income last month came in from the sales of light-up bracelets, the Bonfire t-shirt campaign and membership dues. Expenses were paid out for the Bonfire t-shirt order, for various supplies, for STEM and Makey Makey purchases, and library shelves. The final balance is \$14,717.70.

Old Business

New Treasurer- Dan Tobin had previously offered to fill in at the treasurer position vacated by Slim. However, as Cherie explained, Dan has also been acting as the PTA advocacy representative and doing a great job. Not wanting to overload Dan with more work, Cherie continued to ask for volunteers for the treasurer position. This time Cory Clark volunteered. Voting on the treasurer position was scheduled to take place later in the meeting.

St. Mary's Food Backpacks- The food 'backpack' program is continuing, with help from school staff and rotating volunteers. There are 54 kids receiving 'backpacks'. The distribution process is also evolving, as we try to ensure that all 'backpacks' are picked up. We may experiment with delivering the food to the classroom vs. having the kids come pick them up by the buses. Options for expanding the program into also providing after-school snacks, are also being explored.

Fundraising- The Bonfire t-shirt campaign brought in an additional \$170, thanks to sales at basketball games by Cherie, with help from a fleet of students. The Bonfire second order arrived and was delivered. There are still about 40 of the light-up bracelets left. If anyone is willing to sell these items at future games, let us know.

STEM/ STEAM Update- Discussion ensued over when and how to have the STEM/STEAM night. Different dates were discussed, but Peg Lyle and Amanda Heller will continue to organize. In absentia, Andy Pearce offered one or more of his Resource Education staff to help. Anyone else wanting to help can contact Peg or Amanda.

Family nights- Cherie asked if anyone would take the lead on putting together some kind of family fun night. Craig Chenevert and Cory agreed to organize a Game Night, and the date of February 22 was agreed upon. Knowing that community participation is better when food is involved, the Game Night was expanded into a Game Night/ Chili Cook Off. Discussion followed regarding whether to leave the food to another group for fundraising, or to take it on ourselves. A committee was formed to continue with the organizing of the evening.

New Business

Treasurer Election- At this point, Cherie returned to the election of the Treasurer position. Cory was the only offer/ nomination for the position. Dan motioned, and Peg seconded, Cory's nomination for the position, which was approved unanimously, making Cory the new treasurer. Cherie then recommended that Dan be officially named the PTA Advocacy Representative. That recommendation was motioned by Craig and seconded by Linda Rakow-Schenkoske, then passed unanimously.

School Advocacy- Dan then gave an advocacy update: the AZ Legislature approved a one-time appropriation of \$2.6 million for distribution to many schools, which would include Grand Canyon. A poll of 600 AZ voters found that schools were the #1 concern, and that most supported Proposition 301, a small increase in the sales tax, to be used for teachers' pay. Contact your AZ legislature if you have an opinion. More information about the poll and other issues related to advocacy can be found on the PTA website. Dan also suggested that we could have Voter Registration materials at PTA functions. Anyone interested in helping with advocacy issues should contact Dan Tobin.

Teacher Appreciation Week- In order to give the teachers who attend PTA meetings, some degree of surprise for Teacher Appreciation Week, Betsy and Kim will head a committee to coordinate the festivities for the week, which usually falls sometime in early May. They are seeking other parents who are willing to help. Please let them know if you are interested.

Honor Roll Locker Decorations- There were no volunteers to head this project, so we will wait to see if Lisa Otto and the Girl Scouts have any plans to help on this.

Class Wish Lists- Because of certain limiting issues with using the 'Class Wish' website, the PTA will develop their own system for distributing the money given this year to help Grand Canyon teachers meet their classroom needs. Cory estimated that, if divided evenly, there was about \$160 per teacher, for purchasing supplies. Discussion ensued over the best way to make that money available, whether to offer the \$160 to each teacher, or to have teachers get the PTA a list of prioritized needs, and to fill them until the money runs out. Teachers at the meeting thought that the former method would be the best for them. A motion was made by Betsy, seconded by Peg, to distribute the money evenly at \$160 per teacher. Next step will be to meet with the school administration to make sure they are on board with the money distribution. Once approved, the PTA can then proceed with making the money available.

Some further discussion ensued regarding setting up another program to provide teachers with the opportunity to request grant money for special projects/ supplies, etc., pending monetary support from the Tusayan town council. This will require further discussion, including with the Tusayan town council.

Next meeting day/ location- the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2018, at the GCS, at 6pm, room 207.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 7:50pm.

The PTA email address is: GCSchoolPTA@gmail.com and the website is:
grandcanyonschoolpta.weebly.com

Please send us any comments or suggestions. We love to hear from you.