

Grand Canyon School PTA Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2018

Grand Canyon School, Room 207

In attendance:

President Cherie Benefield, Vice President Betsy Donehoo, Treasurer Cory Clark, Secretary Kim Besom, Brenda Clark, Dan Tobin, Christine Kennedy

Agenda

- 1. Call to Order, Welcome Members & Guests**
- 2. Approval of 2/13/18 Minutes**
- 3. School Update** - School Admin, if present
- 4. Treasurer's Report** – Cory Clark
- 5. Advocacy Report-** Dan Tobin
 - a. State updates
 - b. Voter registration review, STEAM night
- 6. Old Business**
 - a. St. Mary's Back Packs - now serving 40 kids
 - i. Distribution change- Thursday mornings
 - ii. Now, alternating weeks distribution- too many complaints of "too much, or all the same" food
 - iii. St. Mary's wants to continue through summer- we just need to figure out what needs to happen, logistics, etc.
 - b. Honor Roll locker decorations- Amanda Heller & April Symes
 - i. No action as of now... need to re-think for next year. Maybe NHS?
 - c. STEAM 'n TACOS Family Night- Review
 - i. Success! Lots of fun and money for seniors, GCY, etc. Movie was fun Lots of participation.
 - ii. Admin wants to do it again next year
 - iii. Shaving cream outside next time!
 - iv. Donation from Tusayan of \$1000 to reimburse teachers for supplies AND to put towards the Science Exhibition
 - d. PTA \$150 Project- Email went to teachers re: \$150 each to spend. Cherie has had lots of "hallway conversation", but no receipts of order forms as of yet...
 - e. Yearbook ads- Lisa Otto?
 - f. Still pending- PTA Facebook page
 - i. Laura was to manage, but now resides in Tucson. Ideas?
- 7. New Business**
 - a. Job Fair- coming April 11
 - b. Book Fair and Science Expo- first week in May
 - i. Amanda Heller- Book Fair
 - ii. Kaylyn Oates- Science Expo
 - c. Volunteering for teachers?
 - i. Fix the "free books shelf" in Elem
 - ii. Find out from teachers what we can do to help
 - d. Spirit bracelets- remaining inventory
 - i. 16 red, 39 blue. Cost to PTA- \$2.50 each. What to do with them?
- 8. Meeting Days/Times**
 - a. Tuesday, April 24, 2018, Room 207, 6pm
- 9. Adjournment**

Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm.

Initially there were no guest speakers or representatives from the school administration, so

School updates from attendees included:

-AZ Merit testing occurs the first week in April

-The elementary school has hired a Native American aide

Treasurer's Report

Cory has gone through the bank statements for the past 7 years checking the math. So far, he has found only some minor inconsistencies.

Cory presented the Treasurer's Report. Expenses last month included payments for Learning Resources. There was income from the Amazon Smile program of \$46. The final balance in the PTA account is \$15,111.68.

Advocacy Report

Dan Tobin gave an Advocacy Report. At a previous meeting Dan gave out contact info for AZ state representatives so that interested parties could contact them to voice their opinions on Bill #1392. Enough contacts were made to get the bill halted- yeah, for successful public involvement! Now, Prop 301, a bill passed in 2000, adding a 0.6% education sales tax- money that gave \$667 million per year to AZ schools- is getting set to expire. To extend the tax, to keep money coming to schools, Dan suggested that interested parties should again contact state legislatures to voice their opinion. [As of March 22, it was reported in the news that a bill was passed to extend the tax for another 20 years, and Gov. Ducey was expected to sign the bill.]

Dan reported that while staffing a Voter Registration table at the STEAM night, he assisted two high school seniors in registering to vote.

Cherie would like to get all the advocacy information onto the PTA website, but could use help keeping up with that. Anyone willing to help keep the website updated, please contact Cherie.

School Update

Lori Rommel, Asst. Principal, popped in to report the additional following school updates:

-There is now a parent portal on the school website. Check it out.

-There are now 2 full time substitutes

-The school is in the midst of Earth Day planning; the Job Fair is scheduled for 4/11; the 4th graders will be field tripping to the Science Museum in Phoenix; 2 Odyssey of the Mind teams will be heading to the State competition in Tucson; there are some County-taught Sex Ed classes coming up; Senior photos will be taken tomorrow

Approval of 1/16/18 minutes

A motion was made and seconded by Dan/ Christine to approve the minutes from the March meeting. Unanimously approved.

Old Business

St. Mary's Food Backpacks- Cherie reported that after some more adjustments to the system for distributing the food backpacks, there are now 40 kids receiving the backpacks, down from 45. The Thursday morning distributions seem to be working, so will continue. Cherie reported that we are also now going to divide the kids into two groups and distribute the food to each group on alternating weeks, rather than weekly. This distribution method was selected after getting reports that there was too much food and/or not enough variety. A letter was sent home to parents explaining the new distribution system.

It was also reported that St. Mary's is willing to continue providing food backpacks during the summer months, if the logistics of where and when to deliver the food can be worked out. St. Mary's is also willing to provide Freeze 'n Thaw lunches to the kids participating in the 10-day summer school program. Thank you St. Mary's!

At this point, it was proposed and seconded by Dan/Betsy, that the PTA donate \$500 to St. Mary's. It was unanimously passed.

Honor Roll locker decorations- Lori offered to find out who qualified to be on the honor roll, and recommended that we wait till after the end-of-year award ceremonies to decorate lockers, to maintain the surprise. Another suggestion was that we check with the National Honor Society to see if they would take on the locker decoration duties.

STEAM 'n Tacos Night- Over 300 people attended the STEAM 'n Tacos Night, constituting a successful turnout. Because of that, PTA was asked by Administration to do the event next year, as well. Some teachers used money from their \$150 accounts to purchase supplies for the STEAM night. To allay expenses, Cherie asked the town of Tusayan for a \$1000 grant to cover STEAM night costs, to reimburse teachers for money spent on supplies, and to also help cover the expenses for the upcoming Science Expo (scheduled for May 2). The grant was awarded, so thanks to the town of Tusayan for their support!

\$150 Project- Cherie put out an email notice to teachers explaining the \$150 Project and the availability of money to fund classroom needs. No wish lists have yet been received. Cherie will send out another reminder, but it's important to note that whatever isn't spent this year can be used next year.

Yearbook pages- The PTA purchased two ½ pages ads in the yearbook. Lisa Otto needs help with ideas for the pages. Or we could let the yearbook class design the pages. It was suggested that one ad be used to congratulate the students, teachers, and parents.

Facebook page- Laura Chastain is now in Tucson, and is occupied by her recent move. She'll get back to working on the Facebook page once she gets settled in. Any ideas or suggestions for the website can be passed on to any PTA board member.

New Business

Scholastic Book Fair- The PTA-sponsored Scholastic Book Fair has been deliberately scheduled for the same evening as the Science Expo, May 2. Help with unpacking and packing books, and sales, will be needed. Amanda Heller will get out a list of times and more details about when and what folks can do to help.

Volunteers for teachers- Cherie suggested that the PTA could help coordinate connecting teachers with parent volunteers. It was then suggested that the PTA website could be a good forum to post teacher needs, to which parents could respond.

Spirit bracelets- There are still 55 spirit bracelets left. The Clarks offered to sell bracelets at the next middle school volleyball game. Rather than store the bracelets for any length of time, any leftovers can be given away as prizes at upcoming award ceremonies.

Other- The Teacher Appreciation Committee asked how much spending money could be spent on the event. Matching last year's amount, it was motioned and seconded (Dan/Betsy) that an amount not-to-exceed \$2500 be available for Teacher Appreciation.

Next meeting day/ location- The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 24, 2018, Room 207, at the GCS.

The meeting was **adjourned at 7:03pm.**

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.