

Grand Canyon School PTA Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2018

Grand Canyon School, Room 207

In attendance:

President Cherie Benefield, Treasurer Cory Clark, Secretary Kim Besom, Brenda Clark, Lisa Otto, Mike Scott, Gina Adams

Agenda

Call to Order, Welcome Members & Guests

Food for Thought- Elect 2018-19 Officers tonight?

Guest- Thomas O'Conner, School Strategic Planner

Guest- Mike Scott, Summer Café help?

Approval of 2/13/18 Minutes

School Update - School Admin, if present

Treasurer's Report – Cory Clark

Advocacy Report- Dan Tobin

a. #Red for Ed

b. New initiative, #InvestinEd

Old Business

a. Teacher Appreciation Week, April 30-May 3

b. St. Mary's Back Packs - now serving 36 kids

i. Summer school distribution- pickup points in Tusayan, Rec Center. Might need a bit of help.

c. PTA \$150 Project- only a few teachers have taken advantage of this. Reminders have been sent. Can save funds for 2018-19.

d. PTA Facebook page

i. Laura was to manage, but now resides in Tucson. Ideas?

New Business

Vote needed re: IXL expense: \$394 less \$200 "pending private donation"- take rest out of Benefield \$150, and request for PTA to pay additional \$44

i. Benefield will complete paperwork to 'donate' licenses to school

Science Expo/ Pasta Bake/ Book Fair- Tuesday, May 15, 2018

i. Amanda Heller- Book Fair

ii. \$100 private donation for Book Reports/ Bucks for Books

iii. Brenda Clark- Pasta Bake Fundraiser, +\$300 spent

\$5/plate, plus \$1 drinks, any desserts?

Election of 2018-19 officers?

Summer happenings

i. Committee to research & advise on membership dues for next year- individual vs, family dues

ii. Officers list due June 1

iii. AZ PTA Convention, June 8-9, Carefree, AZ

iv. Complete audit- 2018-19 officers, June 30

v. All- see AZPTA website for ideas

vi. July 4th - sell cotton candy/ snow cones/ spirit bracelets at Tusayan celebration

vii. Create 2018-19 calendar (old officers/new)

viii. Membership drive at school registration, early July?

8. Meeting Days/Times

a. Tuesday, August 7, 2018, Room 207, 6pm

9. Adjournment

Meeting

The meeting was called to order.

Guest- Thomas O'Conner, School Strategic Planner

Mr. O'Conner spoke on his being hired to coordinate strategic planning for the school, and suggestions for how to best engage parents in a dialog about what makes a successful school. Suggestions may be made to him in person or via a survey that will be sent to parents. There are 3 questions they are particularly interested in: 1) What does a successful school look like? 2) How do we get there? 3) What can an individual do to contribute to that success? Mr. O'Conner will present his findings to the Board on May 20, and have an outline of recommendations by the end of the school year.

Guest- Mike Scott, Summer Café help

Mr. Scott, from the church, said that he had been approached by Chief Ranger Matt Vandzura, to ask for the church's help in providing lunches for kids in need during the summer months, via a program called Summer Cafe. 60-70% of the kids at school qualify for free or reduced lunches and this program would replace the school lunches that aren't available during the summer recess. Last summer the program was able to provide needed lunches twice per week, with food provided by St. Mary's Food Bank. This summer St. Mary's is willing to provide food for lunches 5 times per week, as well as the fridges and freezers needed to store the food. The food will be given out at the Day Care/ Rec Center locale on the South Rim, at the basketball court in Tusayan, and at the Valle ball field. Mr. Scott was at the meeting to ask if anyone knew of any appropriate space in which the fridges, freezers and food could be stored. Mr. Scott left the PTA meeting to then meet with the Board to also enquire about available space. He later returned to the PTA meeting, to announce that the school had offered to provide the needed storage space, so that the program could proceed. Mr. Scott said that they would be happy for any help handing out the lunches. If you can help, please contact Mike Scott.

PTA Board Elections

Cherie Benefield announced that she was willing to remain as PTA president for another year. First time PTA meeting attendee Gina Adams (who came to the meeting after seeing the PTA signs posted in front of the school) offered her services as vice president. A motion was made (Cory/Brenda) to elect Gina, which passed unanimously. Amanda Heller offered to be the next secretary, so another motion was made (Lisa/Cory) to elect Amanda, which also passed unanimously.

Approval of 3/20/18 minutes

The minutes from the last meeting weren't available for approval.

Advocacy Report

Anyone wanting to know more about the teacher strike and its goals may contact Cherie.

Treasurer's Report

Cory presented the Treasurer's Report. The PTA received income in the amount of _____, Payments went out for Teacher Appreciation and a variety of other costs, leaving a final balance of \$13,246.36.

Old Business

Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher Appreciation Week ran April 30-May 3. The week was baseball themed and included daily gifts and a concession stand lunch for school staff. Though some teachers were still on strike early in the week, all were back in time for the lunch. School staff seemed to feel appreciated by it all, and the costs came in under budget. Betsy and Kim want to extend grateful thanks to Christine Kennedy, Pam Edwards, Bill Sweeney, Katie and Jason Morris, Delaware North, Xanterra and We Cook Pizza for their generous help and donations.

St. Mary's Food Backpacks

The program will continue through the summer and food will be distributed at the Rec Center and in Tusayan. It is expected that a punch card system will be used for participants to their claim food.

\$150 Project

A handful of teachers have taken advantage of the program to purchase items for their classroom, but most appear to be waiting for next year.

Facebook page- Anyone wanting to help with the PTA Facebook page, please contact Cherie.

New Business

Request for PTA assistance

According to Cherie, she was approached by elementary school teachers asking about purchasing membership in an IXL (Immersive, adaptive learning) program for \$394, to help students learn English. Cherie paid for the membership with PTA funds, anticipating that the school would reimburse the PTA. However, school rules don't allow for retroactive payments of unapproved purchases. To cover the costs, Cherie offered to contribute her \$150 Teacher Classroom Funds toward the cost of the program membership. An anonymous donation of \$200 was offered to also contribute toward program costs. Cherie was asking whether the PTA could fund the final \$44 dollars. Cherie asked that a decision be tabled till August.

Science Expo/ Pasta Bake/ Book Fair

Cherie offered PTA assistance in providing food at the re-scheduled Science Expo, on May 15. The Scholastic Book Fair was set up in the library as originally scheduled and sales have been ongoing and successful. Because of the teacher strike, the week of shortened school days and the re-scheduled Science Expo, the Book Fair will be kept an extra week. Volunteers are needed to staff the Book Fair, as well as the Pasta Bake. Volunteers that can help with food prep, will be needed as early as 3:30pm on May 15. Contact Cherie or Brenda Clark if you are willing to help.

Other

Art teacher Amy McBroom told Cherie of an art program she was interested in for next year, costing \$1900. She might be asking for PTA assistance. We would need to know more info about the program.

We need to have a discussion about what to charge for PTA dues for next year.

Summer happenings

Cherie will submit the officers list by the June 1 due date.

Cherie mentioned that there was an AZPTA training this summer. Officers interested in attending the AZPTA Convention should make their own arrangements.

Anyone interested in helping sell cotton candy and snow cones at the 4th of July event in Tusayan this summer should contact Cherie. It was a nice way to promote the PTA last year. The remaining spirit bracelets could also be sold there as they are the right colors and would light up nicely at night.

Cherie would like to get together with officers to create a PTA calendar of events for the upcoming school year.

It was also suggested that a PTA membership table could be set up during school registration over the summer. Cherie doesn't expect to be available then so is asking if anyone else is willing to help.

Next meeting day/ location- The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 7, 2018, Room 207, at the GC School.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27pm.

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.