

Grand Canyon School PTA Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2017

Best Western Squire Inn, Zuni Room, Tusayan

Edibles provided by the culinary department at the school. Thanks!

In attendance:

President Cherie Benefield, VP Betsy Donehoo, Secretary Kim Besom, Cory Clark, Brenda Clark, Lisa Otto, Christine Kennedy, Linda Rakow-Schenkoske, Jeanette Scheller, Dan Tobin, Kara Chenevert, Craig Chenevert, Peg Lyle, Laura Chastain.

The meeting came to order at 6:40pm.

Agenda:

-Call to order, welcome members and guests

-Approval of 8/29/17 minutes

-School update- if school admin present

-Guest speakers

STEM Update- Kaylyn Oates

OM/Scholastic book fair- Kerri Nelson

-Treasurer's Report

-Approval of Financial Audit/ Review

-Old Business

Movie nights

T-shirt orders

Halloween Carnival

Honor Roll locker decorations

After school volunteers

PTA Co-chairs

Artist-in-Residence program

-New Business

Amazon Smile

Request to purchase Brita filters

Request to buy 3 Makey-Makey kits

PTA Education Advocacy

Drivers Ed program update

PTA Membership drive at school

Suicide Prevention speaker

-Next meeting day/ location

-Adjournment

Approval of 8/29/17 minutes

Motion by Laura, seconded by Cory to approve the August meeting minutes. Approved unanimously.

School update

Last minute scheduling of a school board meeting meant that no school administrators were present to address any questions about school happenings.

Guest speakers

STEM Update- middle school STEM representative Kaylyn Oates wasn't able to attend but Peg Lyle gave an update on the program. Librarian Amanda Heller has made space in the library available for the MAKER program. The school STEM team is working on procuring grants from APS and PTA to help fund the program. If the team is able to secure a grant for free STEM games, the PTA could hold a Family STEM Game Night to help promote the program and advertise for the volunteers needed to comply with grant conditions.

OM coordinator Kerri Nelson was also unable to attend but OM coaches Peg Lyle and Kara Chenevert reported that OM is looking for locals with talents that they can share with OM teams. They will also be looking for recyclables in the future. Laura pointed out that she puts out the Community Calendar newsletter and these kinds of things are just the kind of requests/ events that she seeks for the newsletter. Send such requests to: newsletter@grandcanyoncvb.org.

Treasurer's Report

Income last month came in from the GoFundMe donation (\$5,500) and from cookbook sales (\$288). Outgoing expenses went to PTA membership dues (\$117), leaving a balance of \$15,891.57. A motion was put forth by Craig, seconded by Linda to approve the Treasurer's Report. Approved unanimously.

Laura offered to check with Tusayan businesses for interest in selling the cookbook.

Approval of Financial Audit/ Review

Earlier in the month, PTA officers had performed an audit of last year's finances, July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. The audit was passed around for review. Cory motioned, and was seconded by Jeannette, to approve the audit. Approved unanimously.

Old Business

Movie nights- the September family movie night was cancelled after finding out that the middle school had scheduled a movie night for the same date/ time. A possible date for an October movie night might be October 12. Scheduled for that same night is a Spaghetti Dinner Hurricane Fundraiser sponsored by the Interact Club. But if the school agrees to the joint event, Jeannette will coordinate. Otherwise, we'll aim for a November 2 date for a movie night.

T-shirt orders- Amy McBroom was unable to attend the meeting, so Cherie gave a t-shirt update. If approved we can order 6 demo shirts to have on hand when we have our t-shirt fundraiser campaign. Craig motioned, and was seconded by Betsy, to approve the purchase. Approved unanimously.

Laura also offered to advertise the campaign in the Community News newsletter.

Halloween Carnival- It was discovered that another group was having a ladderball game at the carnival, so alternatives were discussed. Cory and Craig offered to build a Plinko board game and Laura offered to coordinate PTA carnival activities. Besides Plinko, the PTA will also sell cotton candy and merchandise- light-up spirit bracelets and t-shirts.

Kara reported that she had ordered the light-up bracelets and they are en route.

Honor Roll locker decorations- Lisa Otto volunteered to coordinate quarterly locker decorations for Honor Roll students, with help from her Girl Scout troop.

After school volunteers- recruiting after-school volunteers for the school has been put on hold for the moment while the school figures out how best to make that work. So, for now, if you are interested in helping out in a classroom, please talk to the teachers.

Artist-in-Residence program- we will talk to Cyndi Moreno and do research to see what is needed to get the program going again. Peg offered to also look into a 2-week theater program she has heard about.

New Business

Amazon Smile- we need to get the word out that the GC PTA is registered with Amazon Smile. Pam Edwards and Christine Kennedy have offered to do a write up to help spread the word. Selecting the GCS PTA when purchasing from Amazon is easy and costs the buyer nothing extra, yet 0.5% of the purchase goes to the PTA. Spread the word!

Request to purchase Brita filters- the PTA got a request from the school to purchase several Brita filters for the elementary school, which currently has blockage in its water pipes, preventing kids and staff from being able to drink safely from the classroom faucets. Dan motioned, and was seconded by Kara, to approve the purchase of 11 Brita water dispensers and 11 extra filters to get the elementary school a couple months of safe drinking water. Approved unanimously. It was also approved to reimburse teacher Heidi Hoel back for the filter she has already purchased. Meanwhile Cherie will see about contacting Walmart for more filters to last the school year, at which time the school will try and get the pipes cleared. Kara will check with Bright Angel Bikes about donating water bottles for the kids to use in the classroom.

Request to buy 3 Makey-Makey kits- middle school science teacher purchased 2 Makey-Makey kits, at \$50 and has requested money from the PTA to purchase 3 more kits. It was approved, after too many motions to keep track of, to not only purchase the 3 requested kits, but to also reimburse Kaylyn for the 2 kits already purchased.

PTA Education Advocacy- Dan Tobin gave a short presentation on education advocacy and the importance of voting on education measures. Dan has gotten 50 voter registration packets, and will look into holding a voter registration drive.

Drivers Ed program update- Betsy gave an update on research into trying to bring drivers education to Grand Canyon. Laura mentioned that Coconino Community College (CCC) is interested in being more involved at GC. Research will continue, especially if that is something that can be arranged through CCC.

PTA Membership drive at school- this year's membership drive slogan is 'Get on Board'. It was suggested that we have our drive in November and make special effort to get out the word on the good things that the PTA is bringing to the school.

Suicide Prevention speaker- Betsy reported that local Perri Spreiser is trained in Suicide Prevention led discussions. She would be willing to lead a discussion at the October meeting, either before or after the regular meeting, as part of Suicide Prevention Month. Do we want to have guest speakers like this?

Community Wellness Update- Laura reported that the Community Wellness Committee has been working out the logistics of bringing in the Backpack Food Program through St. Mary's Food Bank which provides backpacks full of food to hungry kids every Thursday before the kids go home for the weekend. Only a minimal amount of paperwork and a location where the kids can retrieve the backpacks would be required from the school.

Next meeting day/ location- the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 24, 2017, back at the GCS, in classroom 207. We will try having another meeting in Tusayan, but if we get no Tusayan residents attending again, we will re-evaluate whether to continue having the meetings in Tusayan.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 8:43pm.

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.