

# MONTH MEETING MINUTES



## Parent Teacher Organization Meeting

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*Date April 8, 2021 | time 6:02pm | Meeting called to order by Theresa Loescher*

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In Virtual (Zoom) Attendance: Theresa Loescher, Catie Morici, Amber Stawinski, Jill Halsey, Sha Wit, Christina Riza, Christine Trang, Casey Doan, Karolynn Estrada, Jolene Zarzycki, Sabrina Monahan, Regan Sevall, Dana Marques, Rachel Kasner, Anne Provinzino

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Theresa opened the meeting with special thanks to Regan and Valerie for the Mad Hatter dance. Koi Zen fundraiser made \$325. Thanks to everyone for participating.

**Minutes:** Theresa – minutes from last meeting. Christina motioned approve. Sabrina seconded, all voted yes.

### **Diversity and Inclusion Rep:**

Casey Doan – offered to step in as diversity for the remainder of this year and for next year. Sabrina – appoints Casey Doan to Diversity and Inclusion Rep for this year. Someone else will need to appoint her for next year.

Casey: (sharing her screen) Shared her vision as new diversity coordinator. With 2 months left, she is keen to be reaching out to people. Has been sitting in the meetings throughout the district. Has met with a few CV people now so her first priority is to come up with a mission for this role and the work she wants to do within the school. Showed graphic of what her concept is. Belonging at the core of this effort. Wants to make sure every feels that they belong. Use this as our driving ambition. Developing that mission for the work, she is working on this now. Was reluctant to take on the role but we have such a great diverse community at the school, she is hoping that people will step up to be part of the committee. Part of this is about learning. Looking for people to learn more (willing to share articles/books). As well as working with people to focus on hands on activities to share with families to do at home or helping provide activities in class. We will create the work (working closely with teachers/Jill). Has a ton of ideas for next year. And wants to be smart about the calendar. Lunar new year, race / religion, everything. Lots of opportunities in a calendar year. In the earlier stage, maybe the PTO should do a survey annually about how the PTO is doing and what is offered, what the level of engagement is like. Would love to survey the entire community, parents, students, staff, teachers. What do they think are the issues? What is concerning? What do they think is great? Any ideas? To get a baseline understanding where everything is at and where are the concerns. Doesn't want to open the door to problems but for honest conversation. Engaging is going to difficult, since a lot of the same

people do everything. Would like to reach other families that would like and benefit from this information.

Sabrina: language barriers are a concern. We had a couple of parents that want to get involved (prior issues with hearing impaired families).

Casey: engagement would help everything we do. If anyone is interested in joining a committee, pls let her know. Any feedback would be great.

Jill: primary languages can be pulled from school database. One questions could be: what could make them more likely to participate? Her idea was to ask families what events they would like to attend and she would book a translator.

Theresa: plan to connect around calendar events w/ Casey for next year.

Regan: **Dance recap:** over 100 people logged in. The company did a great job. She would like feedback from families. The company gave feedback. They've never seen a group last that long. He left it on a little bit longer. Seemed that everyone had a good time. Most organization was emailing but the company did most of the work that night. Anne Barrera did a great job on the logo. She was a co-host and did screenshots and photos. The event covered itself plus the printing for the fliers.

**Treasurer's Report:** Theresa: (see treasurer's report). Gwen is reserving the 5 th grade committee money. Total of \$13, 647.51. The checking account balance does tie to the register. The reserve from last year + all current money from this year. Motion to approve: Amber. Casey, seconded. All in favor.

**Principal's Report Jill:** kids were really excited for the Move-a-thon. Spirit days were great leading up. Excited for the Jedi Committee and initial planning stages. The garden is so fun. Rachel brought a hydroponics. The kids loved it. We are gearing up for extended day on campus. Has presented the plan to the staff last week. Waiting for board approval on Thursday. Will put everything into place. Foundation worked with some of the recess equipment. Hopefully this is out last reopening plan. Continuing registration is open for next year. Looking forward to supporting our families. The kids are ready and looking forward to spring break. And hopefully extended day starting on April 26 th . Teachers Report Christina: asked for feedback from teachers. Had many teachers talk about the effort PTO has put in to make this year as fun and normal as possible. Dance, scavenger hunt, art program. The teachers appreciate that! Getting ready for the extended school day. Getting classrooms ready. Has been talking to students about it. Kids are looking forward to being together. Looking forward to ending the year this way.

**Skiping Foundation Report.** (Casey S. not in attendance)

**Nomination Committee** – Amber and Anne

Amber: (slide of slate for next year, see attachment).

Jolene: regarding elections next month, how are we going to work the elections? Wants to properly advertise election day.

Anne: everyone has until today to nominate themselves. If we don't have anyone else to run against anyone, we can do a verbal vote.

Theresa: the slate was emailed to all the PTO Members. Request to Jill to post on campus. And post to Peachjar.

Jill to put in the front window and Theresa will list in the newsletter as well.

Jolene: wants to be sure its posted in enough days.

Jill: the timeframe is 10 days

Bylaws discussion:

Theresa: how do committees pick their chair? If more than one person raises their hands to participate, how is it decided who is the chair?

Sabrina: official bylaw is that the PTO president appoints all chairs.

Theresa: concerned about how chairs are picked and is it fair and equitable process?

Anne: If there is more than one volunteer, co-chairs is a good idea.

Jill: agrees a process and a system is good for transparency. What does it look like to if other people want to participate? Concerned about 5 th grade committee. Wants to be mindful that there is a transparent process

Theresa: are we doing an in person 5 th graduation?

Jill: planning to meet with 5 th grade committee. Most schools are doing a version of a drive thru. Our promotion day is June 17 th . Our promotion will likely change the 16 th . I

Anne: will reply to Jill's email. Google survey was sent to all parents. Each parent was able to reply and ask for their participation. And volunteers were put on committee that they wanted to participate.

Dine Outs: Amber: dine outs are going really well. Only 1 was scheduled for March. Next one at Rubios during spring break. Then Chik Fila. They are only using mobile orders for the dine out. Will schedule a few more to finish out the year. Hoping more places are available now that we are headed to orange tier.

**Yearbook:** Sabrina: yearbook is wrapping up this week. Teachers received a copy of their pages this week. Making sure kids are actually in the class for the page collage. She is shopping for a new company for next year. Not happy they their app this year and our rep quit. Wants the app to load the photos right into the folder where they belong. There are 11 people on her team. Friday is the day when the book will be submitted. Expected around end of May.

## **Committees**

**Around the world showcase.** Has anyone signed up? Will reach out to Chuong to get more info.

**Virtual Art Night** – 2 live streams are available for families. We need volunteers to run the zoom.

Anne volunteered. We are getting cups and we need help to put the paints in the cups and need help distributing.

Anne: volunteers to help with the zoom. She didn't see a deadline on the advertisements.

Theresa: not sure of the deadline. Will bulk order the stuff from Amazon. Videos of kids commentary have been working so well to get people to sign up.

Anne: Casey did the one video. Dawn did the move a thon one..

Theresa: will reach out to both of them. Has started to get sign ups. Anything we make will go to the art program.

**Ice Cream Social** - Anne: her initial idea was drive through ice cream parade. Kids drive through and we give out little ice cream cups. Teachers spaced out and giving out the ice cream. There were other suggestions to do something in class. Its within her budget can cover the ice cream without it being a fundraiser.

Theresa: small ice cream was priced out at \$0.33/each.

Ideas:

Amber: the drive thru would accommodate everyone.

Christina: VLA teachers have materials distribution so they are used to the drive thru process.

Amber: there would be a sign up sheet if teachers want to volunteer.

Christina: will talk to the teachers and see what they think. What date are we thinking?

Amber: she would even do it in June.. later in the year? What is convenient for the teachers?

Christina: will talk it through with everyone and give feedback. Teachers are feeling more at ease now they've had the oppty to get vaccinated.

Jill: her vision: staggered the last week of school within the school day, kids and teachers sit outside to enjoy their ice cream. VLA students could do a material's pick up and then give out the ice cream.

Piloting some social / emotional gatherings for connection. Monitoring how it goes. Figuring some things. Hopefully we are given permission to have gatherings in the near future.

Karalynn: Little Caesars – I haven't looked over the ppwk. It will be for anyone in the US. It physically gets sent to your home. Pretty reasonably priced. Pizza, crazy bread and little pizzas you can make. We are getting \$5/per one thing sold.

Theresa: do we need to pick a specific timeframe to get this scheduled?

Karalynn: pick the date within 3 weeks. Allow people the 3 weeks to make the decisions.

Theresa: low effort on our side. Is everyone on board with it? The foundation is talking about doing the dream dinners (planned for the end of April).

Amber: tries to schedule dine outs a month out so let her know so she doesn't overlap.

KE: start on the 28 th of May and go until June 11 th .

**Garden:**

Rachel: by the end of this week, she will have sent home something for every teacher who responded and showed interest. Was able to send something home with almost every kid. Has lettuce seeds and pots and soil from the master gardener association. Was thinking about doing a Saturday pickup to give away the 70 seeds/pots. Our garden path needs some repair work. On the left there is a ditch that they had to dig, the pavers have fallen into the ditch. She would like to move it over to the white lines from the picture. Tonga, Brian and Jill agree with moving the path. Tonga thinks this might be able to fix the drainage problem. She has it in the budget to get sand, etc to handle the update. When can we get together as a group to do the repair work?

Jill: technically we are still in a no volunteer moment. We are starting to have flexibility after school hours. If we can be physically distanced, we can do it before school ends. Kids will be off campus after 1215pm with extended day.

Rachel: with the extended day, there is a huge window to work with. Will talk to Dad's Club to get help on the hardscape

Theresa: anyone have anything else?

Anne: 5 th grade update. We did our yearbook sales. Most of the 5 th graders provided baby photos. We have made \$750. We have our t-shirt design made and yard signs ordered. Will chat with Jill about promotion. We sent a survey to the kids about the theme. The kids were also asked questions. So many kids had such positive things to say about being with their friends and teachers. Some kids have the same memories

Theresa: looking to make a calendar before the year starts and will send out follow up emails. .

Adjourn at 716pm.