Grant TK-8 PTA Meeting Minutes  
9/19/2023 5:30 PM  
Quorum is 12 Members

Our mission is to positively impact the lives of all students and families

Members
Rachel Oechel, President
Holly Amaya, Executive VP
Paula Teixeira, VP 1 (Middle)
Michelle Harris, VP 2 (Elementary)
Jennifer Habig, Parliamentarian
Megan Spangler, Historian
Montinee Pongsiri, Treasurer
Jill Boyle, Secretary
Sandra Appling, Room Rep Coordinator
Brian Milton, Foundation Rep

- **Call to Order/ Roll Call:** Meeting called to order by Rachel Oechel at 5:34. The following current Executive members were in attendance: Rachel Oechel, Paula Teixeria, Michelle Harris, Jennifer Habig, Montinee Pongsiri, Jill Boyle, Brian Milton, Principal Cain. Other members of the PTA membership were also in attendance.
- **Meeting Minutes:**
  - Previous months minutes linked [here](#)
  - Jennifer H. motioned to approve the minutes. A second motion was made.
- **President’s Report:**
  - **Volunteer Needs:** Rachel O put out a request for room reps for Rudy and Hampton’s classes and explained the role/responsibilities. Stephanie Milton volunteered to be the rep for Hampton. Committees and Volunteers sign up sheet linked [here](#) for additional opportunities
  - **Back to School Packets:** Flyers will now be sent electronically. Current flyers were reviewed during the meeting. Link to packets [here](#)
  - **Grant Gear Store:** New fundraiser selling Grant gear. Will be a source of passive income, portion of profits will go directly to PTA. Site is not live yet but will be soon. Two items from the site raffled off at the end of the meeting. All in attendance (in person and virtual) entered.
- **Treasurer’s Report:**
Prior Year (2022-23) Actuals vs. Budget: Montinee P. shared a net profit of $32,000 (higher than expected). Primary sources, Imagine campaign and Gala. Biggest expense expense was the jog a thon, due to the use of a new company (Apex). Plan for this year will be different (Apex will not be involved) and more cost effective.

Current Year (2023-24) Activity to Date: Since school started, PTA has raised approximately $3,000, primarily from membership fees. Fundraising will be minimal this year due to large amount raised last year. Large expenses included STEAM committee (large increase in funding form $8,000 to $25,000) and categorical funding. Goal is a net revenue of $0. Question raised: What is Smore account? Rachel O. shared that it is the new account to be used for the Grant Blast. (Same account used for the Gecko Gazette). Primary reason for change is the ability for the program to translate into multiple languages.

Move to Approve 2023-2024 Budget: Brian M. motioned to approve the budget. A second motion was made. No discussion raised. Vote passed unanimously.

Principal's Update:

Principal Cain introduced new Associate Principal, Michelle Gallegos who will begin October 2, 2023. Vice Principal Gallegos introduced self and shared that she is currently a 6th grade teacher at a charter school in Chula Vista. This is her 11th year as a teacher. Principal Cain shared that Associate Principal Gallegos has both elementary and middle school experience which was an important criteria during candidate selection. Question was raised about what the Associate Principal’s duties will be. Principal Cain shared that this will be determined ASAP after the start date, but will primarily be the same functions of Dr. West.

School Site Council member voting is in progress, reminder made to vote.

Increased efforts this year to support school attendance. The Attendance Team is currently forming and will be rolled out to staff tomorrow (9/20) and specific goals will be set with each team. Parents will receive more information to come in the Gecko Gazette. Reason for the committee: unexcused absences impact learning. Attendance has not rebounded since Covid.

Teacher Reps (Michelle and Paula):

Michelle H. introduced self (via TEAMS) as the elementary school rep. She reported there were no questions from the teachers. Categorical funding budget was shared with all teachers. State testing is happening.

Paula T. thanked PTA for ordering all items requested through discretionary funding.

Foundation Updates

Brian M and Laura M reviewed the function of the Foundation-primarily to support STEAM programs which are funded 100% by donations to the Foundation.

Imagine Campaign will begin 10/1/23.

Call for volunteers to help with tabling and to spread the word and encourage others to donate. Info will be posted in the Grant Blast.
Goal is 75% participation (of any amount) per classroom (historically easier to meet this goal in elementary classes, harder in Middle School). New incentive for meeting the goal will be a Field Day.

- **Halloween Carnival**
  - Greta shared that the carnival will be held 10/21/23 from 4-7pm and will be free to Grant students. $20 for non Grant siblings and community members.
  - Room Reps will create a SignUp Genius to recruit volunteers for 30 mins slots at each booth. A second SignUp Genius will go out to recruit volunteers for overall carnival needs.
  - Questions raised by the group: Is admission for parents free? Yes. Where is the carnival? Check in will be at the chatio gate. Does one need cash to buy pizza? Yes. Pizza sale is a fundraiser for 6th grade. Food trucks will also be available. Is it possible to create a QR code to pay for pizza if no cash? Greta will explore this option.

- **Bylaws**
  - Jen H shared the background (updated every 2-5 years as needed) and the primary updates that have been made. First is to decrease the executive committee nomination team from 5 to 3 as it is difficult to recruit 5 people. The second update is that the membership meetings will move from bi-monthly to 3 times per academic year. The goal of this change is to increase attendance. Meetings will be a hybrid and move to evenings. The third update is that the amount for unauthorized spending will be increased (from $500 to $1000). This will allow for spending between membership meetings. Vote will take place at the next membership meeting. Next is a decrease from 3 VPs to 2 to align with current structure. Process: Executive Board approval, State Parliamentarian approval, Association vote of approval (%). Opportunity for questions was presented; there were no questions.

- **Art to Remember**
  - Rachel shared that this fundraiser will occur again this year. Art that is created in art class can be put onto different items (e.g. keychains, mugs). Orders will be received in time for the holidays. This will be posted in the Grant Blast.

- **Action Items**
  - Rachel shared the program schedule for the academic year. Call for volunteers made for Halloween Carnival, Field Day, Jog a Thon, 5k and Staff Appreciation Day. Motion made by Jen H to vote to approve schedule, second motion was made. Vote was unanimously approval. Opportunity for questions; no questions raised.

- **Roudtable**
  - Ms. Anthony shared on behalf of ASB that 9/22/23 will be spirit day (sports theme). All students are encouraged to attend.
  - Question was raised: Staff Appreciation Day includes all staff or does each staff type have a separate day (e.g Nurse Appreciation Day). Principal Cain clarified there is one week for all staff at Grant.
Question raised: Can you register for the Mission Hills 5k now? Yes. Volunteers also needed for this event.

Question raised: Will teachers still receive stipends? No. Stipends are not allowed by PTA. Categorical funds will be used instead (approximately $20 per student is the allotment). Requests for this can be sent via a spreadsheet and funds can be used for instructional items, supplies, etc. Principal Cain shared that she has received positive feedback from teachers on this change as requests are being filled quickly.

Question raised: Will auditorium be renovated? Principal Cain addressed this and shared that the whole site modernization process is in progress. Plans are still being worked through between the District and the architects. More updates to come.

Questions raised: Is there a teacher discount for the 5k? Brian M. will find out the answer and report back. Early Bird registration is available now through 12/31/23.

Rachel shared that Family Science Night will be held 9/29/23 at 5:30pm at the lower playground area.

Picture Day is next week for elementary students and middle school students who missed registration.

- Adjourn
  - Motion to adjourn was made by Alicia, second motion was made. Meeting was adjourned by Rachel O at 6:32pm.

Association meetings: September 19, February, April (location and time TBD)