

MINUTES

Thornebrooke General Meeting – video conference

Date | time 08/31/2020 / 7:30pm | *Meeting called to order by* Karissa Martin & Dena Reyes – Co-presidents at 7:33 pm

In Attendance

Dena Reyes, Karissa Martin, Toniann Lentine, Allison McMullan, Lauren Whittington, Laura Van Baalen, Jennifer Julian, Alessandra Romano, Danielle McCoy, Jussara Post, Jennifer Elzeer, Lili Brown, Allison Taliaferro, Amanda Rearden, Christie Howlett, Tisha Barbour, Adrien Hadley, Catie Gall, Irhelma Pieterse, Christin Petroski, Liz Rusnak, Marielis Suarez, Kristi McCollum, Kristin Allgire, Kristine Skelin, Leslie O’Laughlin, Adrian Alipizar, Jane Ribley, Lucia Sanchez, Sharita Gosa, Marla Sachs, Lindsay Roth, Kimberlie Reinhardt, Staci Merrick, Michelle Lopez, Vicki Woodyard, Ashley Fitzgerald, Elizabeth Mayo, Monica Emery, Beki Russo, Ray Cabral, Renee Martin, Shelly Upchurch, Julie Soares, Brie Boers, Lisa Hiracheta, Jenny Seaberg, Debbi Zambito, Danielle Orchard, Annmarie Stewart, Amy Emerson, Anne Hetzel, Karen Francoforte, Mr. Daniels

***General Meeting held via Zoom video conference due to OCPS school closure**

Welcome, Introduction of Executive Team & President’s Report – Dena Reyes & Karissa Martin

- Dena welcomed and thanked everyone for joining the call and introduced the Executive Team.
- What is PTO?
 - We are a registered 501(c)(3). We facilitate a community approach and support the school in the best way possible.
- How does PTO earn money?
 - Typically, we have two large fundraisers. We have our Barracuda Fun Run in the fall and then the Spring Carnival. We are unsure if either or both will happen this year, but there are potential options with both. There are other ways you can support PTO: membership, Spirit Nights, Spirit Wear. We are trying to be creative and are looking for other opportunities for this year.
- How does PTO spend money?
 - We set goals aligned with school/faculty needs. Our big fundraisers have provided exciting additions such as the playground canopy and the large fan in the PE pavilion that was recently installed.
- Membership/ Getting More Involved
 - If these types of events are enjoyed, we are happy to facilitate more virtual meetings like this. We have new membership software called Membership Toolkit. It does have an app where you can receive notifications sent for things that are happening at the school (example a 30/30 is happening). Dena recommends everyone join the site if they have not already and if interested, download the Membership Toolkit App.

Budget Review – Danielle McCoy

- Karissa shared her screen to show the 2020-2021 budget
- We want to present the budget to you, knowing that things are different this year.
- Anything that is yellow on the income side is tentative depending on fundraisers.
- Anything that is yellow on the expense side are areas we can pull from if need be.
- It is unknown if TES is going to be able to do the Fun Run in any capacity yet.
- There will be no Holiday Shoppe this year due to the uncertain nature of the year
- Anything in gray is going to zero out on both expenses and income. It does not affect the budget.
- There was no budget feedback after reviewing at the recent Board Meeting.
- Karissa calls for a motion to approve the 2020-2021 budget for this school year for Thornebrooke PTO
 - A motion to approve the budget for 2020-2021 school year for Thornebrooke PTO is made by Jennifer Julian
 - Jennifer Elzeer seconds the motion
 - All approved say “aye”. All approve.
 - The budget stands approved as presented.

Principal’s Report – Mr. Christopher Daniels

- Thornebrooke is doing a lot with upgrades. Many projects are being pushed through in a hurry.
- We are getting an updated emergency system. It should be done in two days. We are also getting Wifi upgrades and those are supposed to be done in about 5 days. The Smart Boards are still being installed, about half are ready to go. We are also getting audio enhancement systems. The PTO fan is working really well and the PE teachers and students are really enjoying it.
- We are going to get new portables (more like modules) but it is a year away. They are working on the planning now.
- After the first handful of days, everything is going pretty well. We have to tweak things here and there, but that is expected.
- We were in line for this new technology, but we were in line to get it a year from now. The teachers had about a month of training compared to the normal 8 months of training. Most have done a great deal in a matter of weeks, what usually takes months.
- The number of students stands at 580 compared to 695. Most area schools are down. The county is still making budget decisions. Savings has been set aside for this upcoming year. If the county makes us have a budget for 580, it will be tight. We should have an update by the end of September.
- We are being provided a school health attendant, which is different than a school nurse. The school health attendant is more like an assistant to the nurse and is provided to all schools through the First Cares program to help with the smaller issues like Band Aids, etc. so that the nurse can concentrate on the more serious issues. This comes from the county budget.
- He thanks people for continuing to take care of the gardens. The garden by the flagpole is tremendous (shout out to Lili Brown and family).
- He thanks people for helping their kids with LaunchED. He knows it is a lot of work.
- Please let the school or your child’s teacher know if you need anything.
- Any questions? None were raised.

- Our ADDitions program will obviously be a little different this year.
- Last year, OCPS had over 58,000 approved ADDitions volunteers and over 700,00 logged hours.
- Last year at Thornebrooke, we had 900 approved ADDitions volunteers who logged more than 8,000 hours, and that was with a shortened school year.
- There will be no on-campus volunteers, field trips, or events for the foreseeable future, but there will be at-home opportunities with the PTO and virtual opportunities with your class. Both will require ADDitions approval.
- For those who are new, ADDitions is a volunteer management system that OCPS uses to run background checks, establish volunteer opportunities, and log and report volunteer hours.
- All of this is done to protect students, staff, faculty, and volunteers from harm and for a reduction of liability for OCPS.
- We do need to make sure anyone wishing to volunteer either in-person or virtually, must be ADDitions approved.
- You must renew every year. There are two applications: new users and returning users. There are directions on the website and an email will be sent out as well.
- If you have a middle or high school student who needs hours for graduation or other service opportunities, they can submit their OCPS student ID in lieu of a SSN for their application.
- New and returning applicants are required to answer a series of security questions and review OCPS policies. This year, you will be agreeing to a COVID-19 acknowledgement in addition to other policy guidelines. Please review all guidelines carefully as there have been changes.
- Failure to comply with all policies may result in termination of your volunteer status.
- It can take 4 weeks for your application to be approved. You will not receive notification that you have been approved.
- Volunteers must select opportunities with Thornebrooke to be linked to the school.
- Currently, just select the general “ADDitions” opportunity at Thornebrooke as individual class volunteers are not currently allowed.
- Please log your hours from home. These hours are necessary for Thornebrooke to qualify for awards and grants such as the 5-Star Award, Golden and Silver School Awards.
- Companies such as Disney, Universal, and Lockheed Martin will provide donations for volunteers providing their time.
- There are directions on the website how to log your hours
- Field trip chaperones must be ADDitions approved and approved by their teachers. Until then, OCPS Emergency Management Team will continue to provide information as the year goes on as to if, when, and how we will be able to utilize our volunteers.
- For now, only principals can approve volunteers entering the school IF they consider it necessary.
- OCPS is also working on guidelines for virtual volunteering. All volunteering that occurs within the district must have an OCPS staff member monitoring the session whenever a student is involved.
- All information that is put into the ADDition system is public record. Volunteers may apply for an exemption from the public record disclosure during the application process.
- Any questions? Please log your hours – including attending this meeting.

Partners In Education – Alessandra Romano

- Partners In Education Program’s objective is to link businesses and organizations with schools to create a partnership that is beneficial to both parties.
- For OCPS, there are 2,000 PIE’s. For our district there are 125. Many offer faculty and staff discounts.
- Thornebrooke has wonderful partners, many have been with us for years. Alessandra shows a slide with a list of Thornebrooke partners.
- These partners help the schools with donations, incentives/awards for students and teachers.
- We have had donations for breakfast, AR parties, fundraising events, etc.
- For Teach-In this fall, we are looking at options, including partners giving a virtual tour of their place of work.
- Some partners are doing Spirit Nights. We are excited for the first Spirit Night at Chipotle next Tuesday. This will be an order online/ pick-up event.
- If you think of a business that would be interested in becoming a partner, please contact either Alessandra or Liz. They should be the primary contact for Thornebrooke. We would love any suggestions.

Barracuda of the Month – Dena Reyes

- This is Thornebrooke’s employee of the month. We want to make sure to keep this going even though many teachers and students are virtual.
- If you have had any experiences with faculty or staff that are above and beyond and would like to nominate, please fill out the Google doc that will be emailed.
- We would like to recognize that Mrs. Thomas is our reigning Barracuda of the Month.

Any Questions? – Dena Reyes & Karissa Martin

- Dena reminds everyone to “like” the Thornebrooke PTO Facebook page.
- Karissa thanks everyone for attending and gave a special thanks to Mr. Daniels.
- No questions were raised.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm

Announcements

1. 5th Grade Family Meeting – Sept 3
2. No School (Labor Day) – Sept 7
3. Spirit Night – Sept 8 at Chipotle
4. Virtual Open House- Sept 10