

MINUTES

Thornebrooke General Meeting – video conference

Date | time 01/21/2021 / 7:30pm | *Meeting called to order by* Karissa Martin & Dena Reyes – Co-presidents at 7:34 pm

In Attendance

Karissa Martin	Jennifer Elzeer	Amanda Rearden	Anne Hetzel
Dena Reyes	Jussara Post	Irhelma Pietrese	Lynne Schaber
Toniann Lentine	Lindsay Roth	Kristine Skelin	Marla Sachs
Danielle McCoy	Sarah Barry	Kimberlie Reinhardt	Sharita Gosa
Lauren Whittington	Adrien Hadley	Katelyn Francoforte	Christopher Daniels
Laura Van Baalen	Lisa Hiracheta	Lili Brown	
Jennifer Julian	Alessandra Romano	Allison McMullan	

***Board Orientation held via Zoom video conference**

Call To Order and Welcome – Dena Reyes & Karissa Martin

- Dena welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone who helped to participate with the Guardian Angel program: the Food Drive and the Angel Tree were very special and successful.
 - All feedback from teachers and admin was positive
 - This year will continue to look different. We will not be able to do some of our normal Spring activities
 - Our focus will be to support the morale of the faculty and staff considering the unique and different needs this year has presented.
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Spring Events Update – Karissa Martin

- There will be no Carnival this year. OCPS is not allowing on-campus events or field trips at this time.
 - We will forego the Silent Auction. It didn't feel quite right to ask for donations when so many businesses are struggling. There is still a chance that if we can somehow do an outdoor event in May, we will do so.
 - The Family Dance in April is canceled. No plans to reschedule that.
 - There will be some version of Field Day. There will be no volunteers allowed on campus, so that event will definitely look different.
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Principal's Update – Christopher Daniels

- Covid Virus is driving all decisions. We had higher hopes that things would be further along.
- Field Day might be a multiple day event. For example: 1st and 2nd grade one day, 3rd and 4th the next. No date set on that yet
- We are going to keep some March ideas open for May, if it is possible to do so.
- Holding out hope that we can do something for 5th grade

- Mr. Daniels thanks PTO and parents on behalf of the teachers for holiday gifts. It is all much appreciated.
- Censory Count: our population is gaining. We gain a few, lose a few. We have not gotten above 600. We had about 83 students come back to F2F after the breka. We are at about an 80/20 split
- We did hire Rachel Saunders for the Art Teacher position. He announced this on the news. Very happy to have her on board
- We will not get any additional money this year. Getting new students will help with the budget.
- Our number of students who came back is the same as other area schools. It wasn't that way across the district, but it was for our area. Except for Westbrooke which had less students come back
- State Testing – Florida Department of Education mandates that we are still on. 3rd grade – early April, May – 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Students in LaunchEd will be asked to come take the test in-person. For a school to get an A-rating, we have to have above 95% participation. There are some questions about this year, if we cannot get some students to come back to take the test. Does that automatically lower our rating? The legislature has time to make those decisions. Some states have either delayed or canceled their testing. GA has suspended their testing.
- Survey – sent a phone message and email yesterday. Staff survey went out and have sent Parent surveys. We need at least 20% participation from parents. We are going to do a 2-week push for parents to do their surveys. It worked with the staff surveys to get them done. Last year was not the best for parent surveys. We were ranked in the 80's for schools. We were in the top 12 for staff of all OCPS. We were in the top 14th for students.
- Would it be ok to share the link on our Facebook page? He will check about the link, but we can definitely put a reminder on the Facebook page to check their email and take the survey.
- We will do an ADDitions blast about Nothing Bundt Cakes.
- Class size – we have always kept it low. District-wide breakdowns show that we have lower class sizes, We are 3-5 students lower than other schools in the area
- Covid cases are still coming. We are seeing more exposures, but actual cases has been low. We have had no school-to-school, student-to-student or student-to-teacher cases (knock on wood)
- We have a newsletter coming out soon with a video
- Middle of year data- compared to other schools is really good. He is really proud of the kids, parents, and teachers. Top 10 of all OCPS. Special kudos to 3rd and 5th grade. We do still have a math gap. This is a nation-wide issue due to last Spring. The math gap is closing and is down by half. Our ESE students and teachers have made great gains over the prior 9 weeks.
- Staff observations are coming up.
- Feb 9th is Photo Day. LaunchED will be after school from 3:30-5 and they will be sent a link for students to schedule a time slot. We do like to have everyone's photo for their long-term cumulative folders and for safety. Photos were supposed to be in the bus loop, but the company is waivering on that. Mr. Daniels plans to hold them to it.
- 5th Graders have Gotha Orientation next week on the 27th. They always recommend doing the orientation, even if families have other plans. Orientation is always during school. They come talk to the students first about classes and hand out papers. They then do a virtual orientation. In the summer, they do in-person tours. Hopefully those will still occur.
- Our last tech is coming in. We got all new Fiber Optic and Wifi. The security system was not done, but is now being worked on. Swivel cameras are coming in. We have 5 so far and we are getting 15 more. Basically, the camera follows the teacher around. This gives LaunchED students a better view as if they were in the classroom.
- No questions were asked. Mr. Daniels has been very pleased with the students and thanks everyone for their participation.

5th Grade Updat – Allison McMullan

- 5th Grade Fee will not be collected this year as we are not certain what the end of the year will bring in terms of celebration. The students will get a yearbook and a shirt and that is being partially supplemented by the Nothing Bundt Cake sales.
- Nothing Bundt Cakes orders are due by the 29th. A flavor has changed.
- Yearbook Cover coloring sheet was sent out before break. Deadline has been extended to the 25th. The winner of the coloring competition will get a free dedication page as well as their art going on the cover of the yearbook
- Dedication pages will go for sale soon.

Faculty Snack/Faculty Birthday – Laura Van Baalen

- We have done a few Faculty Snacks this year, mostly grab-and-go which has had a great response.
- Jan 20 was the last one and First Watch donated items. Amazon Wish Lists work really well.
- Looking to plan one for next month – Italian/ Valentine’s Theme for lunch rather than snack
- Faculty Birthdays- we have been doing gift cards each month and we did a Movie-Themed holiday gift. This is all in hopes of lifting the spirits of the staff and give them extra support.

Spirit Nights – Alessandra Romano

- Spirit Night on Tuesday the 26th for Burger Fi and Jeremiah’s. It will be from 3pm-9pm
- February, we are working on something with Ellie Lou’s. Date is pending.
- For March, we are hoping to do something with First Watch. They have never done an event like this. We could potentially be doing a Friday-Saturday event. They have been great sponsors. First Watch is excited for the opportunity.
- NYPD has been nominated for PIE of the year. They have been really great to us for almost 10 years.
- Board & Brush from December was new for us and it was a huge success. We were happy to partner with them.

Budget – Danielle McCoy

- Funds that we originally budgeted for the Silent Auction and Carnival, we need to make some adjustments on.
- The income related to the Carnival was \$12,500. Carnival sponsor: \$1200. Silent Auction: \$9,000. Total of \$22,700.
- We won’t bring that in this year. The budgeted expenses for those was \$7,500 for Carnival, \$500 for Silent Auction.
- The teacher auction income and expenses balances out.
- The difference between Carnival and Silent Auction is \$14,700.
- She would like to review the proposed reductions:
- The first is the AR Incentives. We would like to reduce that. The prizes are still being provided, but on a limited basis. The remaining \$1,000 will be sufficient for that. We will still be able to provide the AR software, but we may not be able to provide a classroom set of Sunshine State books for the teachers like we have been able to in the past.

- Campus Enhancement reduction of \$4,500 is due to the fact that OCPS has made a lot of improvements to the schools this year. They have replaced Smart Boards, computers, new shade for the playground, teacher workstations, thereby, they do not need as much support from us.
- The Guardian Angel budget was originally increased due to DanceFit, but because we had such generous donations, we will reduce that.
- The Principal's fund will also be reduced. Danielle requests a motion to make a change to the budget:
 - Allison McMullan makes a motion to approve the budget changes that were presented related to the Silent Auction and Carnival being canceled.
 - Jennifer Julian seconds the motion
 - All in favor. All approved.
- DanceFit expenses – the profits do increase our expenses. We budgeted \$25,000. We brought in \$33,954. Since we brought in more than we thought, our expenses also went up with what we had to pay out. Danielle requests a motion to approve the budget change:
 - Jennifer Julian makes a motion to increase the DanceFit expenses to \$9606.38
 - Allison McMullan seconds the motion
 - All in favor. All approved.

Any Questions – Dena Reyes

No questions were asked

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20pm

Announcements

1. January 26 – Spirit Night at BurgerFi and Jeremiah's
2. January 29 – Deadline for Nothing Bundt Cake orders
3. February 9 – School Photo Day
4. Feb 15 – No School (President's Day)