

APT General Meeting Minutes

Held August 22, 2018 at 11:45 am at Cocopah Middle School, C-101A

Present:

Lara Vineyard, Pat Moraca, Maria Negrete, Nick Noonan, Betsy Fisher Pai, Alba Chester, Christy Wright, Francie Donkerbrook, Toby Baum, Patti Pepler, Sarah Strauss, Steve LaBell, Kathy Petsas, Andrea Parrella-Hurney, Courtney Odden, Kym Derus, Pam Pasternack, Scott Vineyard

Welcome and Call to Order – Lara Vineyard called the meeting to order at 11:45 am.

Introductions – Lara Vineyard

Principal – Mr. Noonan

- **Student and Teacher counts**

- Some new staff was hired.
- Student enrollment by day 13:
6th Grade: 291, 7th Grade: 267, 8th Grade: 338, Total Students: 897
- Looking at class sizes now that enrollment has settled down. Finding balance in shifting some classes to better balance some classes that have too many or too little students.
- Going through waiting list of students who wanted to enroll, however, 8th grade level is closed to enrollment.
- Staffing is based on projected enrollment. 2 teachers per core class per grade level.

- **AZ Merit review**

- Goal is 80% passing for each grade level. We didn't meet that target but we are near the top and we are above other schools except Cheyene.

- **Points of focus:**

- Treat students with respect
- Treat ALL staff as professional colleagues
- Treat parents as partners

- **What's new this year**

- Schedule Change – Embedded a reading period before/after lunch depending on grade level. 6th and 7th grades will be after lunch, while 8th graders will be before lunch. Mr. Noonan has been sitting with classes at random and reading with them. Teachers are also reading to model the behavior. If there is a student who might be struggling or has missing assignments, teachers can talk to student one-on-one to provide support, reach out and help student who needs help during this time. To make the available time for this change, classroom time was reduced by 1 minute and the transition time between classes was also reduced by 1 minute.
- Students get to play out on the field supervised away from the buildings where classes are being held.

Financial Update – Pat Moraca

- The approved Budget was made available as a hand out.
- Amounts in both accounts – Checking: \$65,088.66 (about \$8,000 in outstanding checks for PE shorts and golf cart replacement battery) / Savings: \$33,178.62.
- Quick Books Online – saving \$400 each year for licensing fees. With other schools in district, we're paying \$25 per month.
- Approval for funding request granted to pay for 2 teachers to have 6 sub days.
- Fiscal year about \$62,000.

Cocopah APT Fundraising Membership Status – Lara Vineyard

- Goal - \$50,000
- Amount of money raised: \$26,980 – about ½ way to our goal.
- Number of members: 242
- Number of volunteers: 118
- "Parents wished they knew" responses: 88 responses received. They will be posted in cafeteria and in hallways for students to see.
- We have 2 business sponsorships.
- 3 ½ weeks of membership drive left.

Community – Alba Chester

- Meet and Greet was well attended.
- Planning a November community event that will be fun for kids.

Volunteer – Lara Vineyard and Steve LaBell

- **Volunteer Breakfast**
 - We had about 25 people attend this breakfast on Saturday morning.
 - Several parents signed up to volunteer.
- **First Staff Luncheon**
 - The staff lunch was an overall success. We had plenty of parents who volunteered. The staff enjoyed a nice variety of salads, desserts and sandwiches. The staff was very appreciative and this was a nice opportunity for the APT to give everyone a nice treat.

Education – Lara Vineyard

- **Education Event - ParentVue** (sponsored by 6th grade)
 - About 40 parents and staff were there to learn about ParentVue/Synergy
 - Learned new tricks. It was engaging and nice for teachers to be there and talk about how they use it. All gradebook assignments are input into Calendar.
 - Question: Is it required for teachers to input homework:
Answer: Most 6th grade teachers consistently input and use Synergy. 7th and 8th grades also use Goggle Classroom so there is a mix of which tool they use. Document sharing through google classroom is easier. Mr. Noonan will look into which platform will be more beneficial.
 - A 7th grade sponsored event focused on organizational skills will be held in 2 weeks on August 29.

Communication – Betsy Fisher Pai

- If you want to include information in the next newsletter, submit information by end of day Wednesday.
- Directory invitation
- Directory access will go live once membership drive is over.
- Updated website with calendar has exporting capability.

Items up for a Vote – Lara Vineyard

1. **Request for funds: Kathy Gaydos and Matt Dougall (6th grade science teachers)** - \$417.56
Subscription for Science World magazine for reading comprehension and writing assignments.

Motion by Christy Wright; 2nd motion by Francie Donkerbrook; All in favor to approve, none rejected.

2. **Request for funds: Matt Dougall (6th grade science teacher)** - \$380

Microscope Camera - Last year, our microscope camera broke. This camera attaches to the eyepiece of a compound microscope and allows students to see a microscope slide on the Smartboard. This camera is essential to teach students how to use the microscope, as well as, teaching students to find evidence while looking at a microscopic organism.

Motion by Alba Chester; 2nd motion by Betsy Fisher Pai; All in favor to approve, none rejected.

Other Updates

- **Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation – Lara Vineyard**
They are being reviewed by an attorney. They haven't been updated since 1990's. Hoping to have updated docs by next meeting.
- **Farmers Market – Lara Vineyard**
To be held on Oct. 13. Will charge \$50 per parking spot for families of Cocopah students and \$100 per parking spot for non-Cocopah families. It will take place at the same time as Briar Patch so we're hoping to get some of that traffic. ½ funds raised will go to student council.
- **Silent Auction – Alba Chester, Lara Vineyard**
Auction items will be experience-based prizes. Lara and Christy met with teachers to pitch silent auction idea. Teachers were for it. This will be an after school, student focused, fall community event. One idea is a student shadow career day, so if any parent has an interesting field let us know. Kids will get a printed directory. More information to come.

First planning meeting will be Sept 6 at 11am at Cocopah to form a committee to plan and run this fall activity. Christy is looking for online silent auction software.
- **Tuft & Needle – Alba Chester**
Kicking off a new passive fundraiser – Tuft & Needle (mattress company) 25% goes back to Cocopah. Link on APT website. They will give us 1 mattress to raffle off. Location in downtown Scottsdale.
- **APT Website has been updated – Lara Vineyard**
 - Teacher Reimbursement Form online
 - Business Sponsorships Form online
 - Supply List – thank you to all who have donated. We hope to stock supplies once every quarter.

- **Volunteers Needed – Lara Vineyard**
 - **VP Volunteers** – we have 1 parent but she works so we need a 2nd parent to help share this position.
 - **VP Fundraising** – we don't have anyone yet
 - **School Student Store** – open once per month for students to buy
 - **Large Community Event** – we don't have anyone yet
 - **Grant Writing Committee** – Scott Vineyard has volunteered but needs help. If you come across any grants let us know and we will write grant. We need people to help write the grants.
 - **Shared Classroom Supplies** – a new Board Position held by Maria Negrete and Rissel Gonzalez

- **Scottsdale Parent Council** is back. Lisa Karnish is on the committee. Let her know if you have any questions. Great way for parents to be involved at a high level.

Upcoming Events:

- Cocopah Gathers @ Pita Jungle on Tuesday, Aug. 28
- Education Event: Organization Skills for Middle School - Wednesday, Aug. 29 (sponsored by 7th grade)
- The Vig - Cocopah Gathers event all September at The Vig
- Membership Drive Ends - Sept. 4
- Education Event: Develop Solid Study Skills - Wednesday, Sept. 15 (sponsored by 8th grade)
- 6th Grade Parent Lunch at The Vig - dutch style - Sept. 17 (11-1pm)
- Health Screening - Sept. 20 (volunteers needed)
- Cocopah Gathers for Orchestra at Chipotle - Sept. 25
- Education Event: Back to School Daze with Katey McPherson - Wednesday, Sept. 26

Close Meeting – The meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm

The next APT General Meeting – Wednesday, October 24 at 11:45 am

Submitted by
Maria Negrete
APT Secretary 2018-2019