

APT General Meeting Minutes

Meeting held August 28, 2019 at 8:30 am at Cocopah Middle School, Main Office Conference Room

Present:

Kathy Crumley-Schember, Pat Moraca, Francie Donkerbrook, Rissel (Rio) Langbecker, Irene Sachakov, Maria Negrete, Linda Laremba, Victoria Rosacci, Christy Wright, Colleen Steinberg, Steven LaBell, Shelley Dougherty, Angie Bales, Lara Vineyard, Jen Nuava

I Welcome and Call to Order – Kathy Crumley-Schember

- Meeting called to order at 8:30 am.
- Not a lot of change from last year. We are focused on students and the student on-campus experience. We will also keep teachers in mind.
- We revamped the budget last year to focus on students. The APT Board took a much deeper look at the budget.
- The open positions can be collapsed down to streamline the Board, especially the various committees.

II Financial Overview – Pat

- Reviewed Budget (Budget available on website)
- Opening Statement – Thanked everyone that assisted with the budget last year. Reviewed our taxes last year. 2016 ended with \$219,000 in checking and savings combined. Last year we had \$62,000. We were on the way to an unsustainable path. We were spending more than we were bringing in. We were funding two positions that were not in our mission statement (front office and nurses aide). We formed a Finance Committee to look deeply into the budget and made decisions to make changes to benefit where students were most impacted. Looked at our potential liability and put the responsibility back onto the district. We created a letter petitioning the district to fund these positions. The link to the letter to the Superintendent is on our website. Please read and sign the letter, and don't forget to confirm your email to complete the process. We shifted the focus to benefit students. Stem teachers had requested \$3,000 to jump start Robotics club and they applied for a Charros scholarship of \$10,000, but did not receive it. We were able to give \$10,000 for Robotics Club, increased teacher supplies fund from \$200 to \$250. Increase Fine Arts from \$3000 total to \$10,000 so each will get \$2500. Funding band percussion teacher in the amount of \$5000. Need to look at Tax Credit funding .
- Currently where we stand:
 - \$83,000 to start
 - \$40,000 in donations, PE uniforms, agendas and spirit wear. Does not include \$3000 owed to the agenda vendor.
 - Back-to-School fundraiser has raised \$25,000 as of Tuesday.
 - Last year's donations \$25, \$50, \$100 etc. This year we have received more sizeable donations.
- Last year, we did not lose money as we had in many past years.
- Kathy has received feedback that we are on the right path regarding communications.

- Fundraising on the Budget – that line item was last year’s numbers. Last year we were a pay-to-play membership. This year’s membership is free and open to all.
- We discussed sending another email to parents with information and pictures telling parents where we are with fundraising so that we can appeal to those who have not donated yet.

III Fundraising – Christy

- The fall fundraiser is the Back-to-School Fundraiser.
- Changing things a little. We are doing a Read-a-thon in January. Incentivizes students with prizes.
- Will have auction at Parent Night in March. Needs people on Auction Committee. Needs people from other schools too.
- Husband will tie in Cocopah to other fundraisers he’s doing at Cherokee. There is an upcoming NFL event coming up quickly so if we want to participate, we’ll need to do that asap.
- If you know of anyone who can help with fundraisers, please contact Christy Wright.
- Last year we did a quick fundraiser for Experiences and raised \$8,000.

IV Events – Irene

- In charge of community events and parties. Wants to focus on events and activities where students can have fun.
- Some new ideas: Glow Party, Literary Dress-up Party.
- Crazy for Cocopah – In the initial stages of planning Crazy for Cocopah to be held on Nov. 8. The first planning meeting will be on Sept. 10.
- Classroom Baskets –Themed Baskets. Students will donate to whichever class they have in 1st period.
- We discussed having a Holiday Pancake Breakfast social where the themed baskets will be auctioned at. Hoping it will take place on a Saturday morning in December.
- The 6th Grade Breakfast was a great idea to introduce kids and families and was organized by Shelley Dougherty.

V Tax Credit – Victoria

- State Tax Credit dollars is dollar for dollar. Figuring out how to market tax credits. Cocopah didn’t have much in Tax Credit funds. 6th grade is a great source for donations. 7th and 8th graders have field trips that parents use Tax Credits to pay for. Anyone who lives in AZ can donate. General Fund gets voted on by Site Council (Nick, Pam, parents and teachers).
- Last year we had \$10,000-\$11,000; this year \$30,000. Half of the amount is already encumbered.
- Last year we had 5 clubs; this year we have 11. Tax credit is money in and money out so teachers don’t have to wait for funding to start a club. To start a club, teachers write a proposal for the club, submit proposal to Site Council for their vote and approval. All teachers time/salaries for the after school clubs are paid by Tax Credit. It would be great if parents can let friends/family know about Tax Credit and also accountants with clients who are not tied to a school. Maybe we can remind Tax Credit to parents at the Holiday Pancake Breakfast.
- The district will be communicating some changes that can allow to purchase items for teachers.
- The Director of Finance for SUSD will be at tomorrow evening’s Tax Credit Parent Education meeting.

VI Spirit Wear – Rio

- We have low inventory of our current spirit wear.
- The Spirit Wear Design Contest completed.
- Timeline: we would like to have the new spirit wear t-shirts in time for Crazy for Cocopah.
- We will have to new images:
 - 1) Cocopah '65 (1965 was the year Cocopah was established) for adults
 - 2) The winning logo from the contest for student t-shirts
- Parents would like girls cut with no v-neck. We should offer two cuts – regular and girls
- Suggestion to tie Spirit Wear to Spirit Days. We'll need a teacher to spearhead it. Kathy will talk to Ms. James (Athletic Director) and Ms. Dehham (Student Council).
- Discount will be given to teachers.

VII Career Lab – Lara

- We have a couple of parents who have signed up.
- Once a month a parent(s) will come talk about their careers. The purpose is to educate students about different careers and what students need to know/do to get that job.
- Presentations will be held once a month during half-day Wednesdays after school from 12:30-2:00.
- Looking at having the first one on Sept 11 with a panel of first responders.
- Others to be scheduled and will be posted on website.
- If parents know of anyone, please contact Lara.

VIII SPC Updates – Francie/Shelley

- SPC (Scottsdale Parent Council) is like APT for the district.
- The Superintendent speaks. The meetings are informative and have an open forum along with agenda topics.
- The next meeting will be on Sept 11 at 6pm at Mojave Center where they will have a “Yes to Children” presentation.
- “Yes to Children” is the initiative to extend the override. Continuing to receive this money is critical to our schools. It is important for the community to know that this is NOT a new override. It's the SAME override this is in place now but it's time is about to expire and it just needs to be extended.
- It is a mail-in ballot for those households living in the Scottsdale school district only.
- Anyone can attend the SPC meetings as they are open for the community. For more information please visit:www.scottsdaleparentcouncil.org.

IX Q&A, Action Items, Wrap Up – Kathy

- Vacancies on the board – will be streamlined
- Shelley's recommendations of pictures to show parents what APT has funded.
- Add big, red radio button for donations to website
- Update Fundraising Thermometer on website
- Newsletter will start to come from Colleen/ Membership Toolkit. Membership Toolkit to be one and only database used for volunteer sign-ups.
- Nikki will be leading volunteers. Committees go to Nikki if you need volunteers.

- Checks from parents need to be made payable to Cocopah APT. The Memo line should state what donation/payment is for (i.e., Spirit Wear, Auction Basket, etc.)
- Waiting to receive for Kona Ice numbers from Back-to-School Orientation.
- We held our first Cocopah Gathers last night at Cold Beer & Cheeseburgers. They will give us 15% of all sales between 5-9pm. Teddy Golden works for Four Peaks and offered beer tastings.
- Planning for Holiday Sunrise Breakfast
- Pizza oven from Il Bosco
- Angie will put us in contact with Sequoya Dad's Club.
- Update club information - Jazz Club is only for 7th & 8th graders.
- Spirit Wear t-shirts – order two different style cuts: regular and girls.
- Forming a Spirit Club.

Close Meeting – The meeting adjourned at 10:20 am.

Submitted by
Maria Negrete
APT Secretary 2019-2020