

# Our Sequoya Community

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MINUTES - Friday, March 23, 2018

called the meeting to order at 9:02 am

Executive Board Officers in attendance: Chanen Brizuela, Katie Welch, Lisa Kanarish, Laura Seligson, Courtney Odden, Angie Bales

Total Attendance: 14

**Vote:** Courtney Odden moved to approve the minutes from the General Meetings held on January 26, 2018 and February 24th, 2018; Kate Carnahan motioned, Lisa Kanarish seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rosetta Stone discussion: Survey results passed out. 104 respondents out of about 400 families. Courtney gave history of program: in calendar year 13-14, Veronica getting a lot of feedback from tours of people wanting to send their kids to schools who integrate foreign language. SUSD gives 0 support for language in our elem school. APT began working and researching with Admin about how to bring foreign language to Seq and chose RS. APT has budget for gifting once other school needs have been met. Summer before 14-15 year, APT had a fundraiser for foreign language and raised enough to get RS started that year. Now in 3rd year of 3 year contract. We are going to have RS for sure at least 1 more year.

Katie - \$13,500 spent for next year for the RS program.

Mrs. Hardy - when we looked at enrollment, 50% are open enrolled, mainly from PVUSD. When gov board rolled out world language initiative, RS is considered an exploratory program in elementary school, intended for exposure more than fluency.

Q - what is SUSD program and why isn't Seq funded by SUSD for foreign language. A: SUSD looks at needs of school. Since we had RS in place when they rolled out world language program, SUSD didn't feel we needed funding. Takes a lot longer to get SUSD funds as well. SUSD doesn't support RS. Other schools who have language have sacrificed other services to get foreign language. Cherokee had 2 PE teachers, gave up 1 of them to get foreign language. They had 2 PE based on higher enrollment numbers.

Q - can we use tax credit money A - would be more before or after school. Tax credit money very limited on how it can be used.

Q - why can't mandate RS homework. A - some kids don't have access to computer at home so can't mandate program usage outside of school

Mrs. Hardy - ability to access program takes a lot of "clicks" - challenging for some littles. Hard for teachers to find time. Has seen most success when used in centers in classrooms. Benefit that kids can pick their language, some students even use it to learn English

Q - can it be used/offered as an after school program and move to an elective model like before/after school so only people who want to use it, pay for it and use it. A - it is possible, maybe set up a foreign language club and pay for teacher to run it.

Mr Finigian - feels it's more of a marketing tool than an actual language learning program. feels it's good for 4-5th grade, but not so much for the younger kids. Should/could be marketed as exposure to a language

Q - can APT pay for a teacher? A - we can pay for Aide but not for a teacher. APT is restricted by SUSD

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Q - any evidence that early exposure opposed to immersion helps them learn language later. A - not sure, can research and find out answer

Suggestion of using free apps to expose kids to language and spend APT money on other things. Perhaps it's time to take a fresh look at other, less expensive or free options. Would need someone from the community to collaborate with staff to explore options.

**Principal Report - Amy on behalf of Veronica:** enrollment for next year over 500, so getting more staff, smaller class sizes. Working on getting teams set. Mrs. Hardy has accepted a different position for next year - Asst Principal at Redfield. We will be getting a full time Dean of students - Amanda Rand, current dean at Copper Ridge. AZ Merit and AIMS testing coming up for 3rd-5th grades. AIMS will be on computer, not on paper this year. Kids will have to type. Laura S - There are some free typing apps (typingtest.com amongst others)

## **Officer Reports:**

President (open) - Courtney: board filling out nicely for next year. Some big chair positions still open.

Treasurer - budget passed out. Sweetheart dance big success. Fun Run numbers coming but not in yet. We did exceed our goal, very successful.

Arts - Lisa - YAD was amazing. Sabra agrees to run it again next year. Classes are working on projects for Art Walk, which will be Thurs April 26.

Communications - Chanan - kinder roundup went well. Started passing out flyers for kinder play dates. First one will be April 21st.

Fundraising - Angie - sweetheart dance was fun, successful. Made \$34,000 at Ultra Fun Run. Will probably stick with them next year. Mostly very good feedback from teachers. PNO moving to May 5 due to low attendance. Silent Auction will be held at PNO but baskets will be set out at Art Walk so people can start viewing and bidding. Jessica - we have some great donations.

Passive Fundraising - Courtney on behalf of Tanya - some family nights coming up. April 18th Mom's night at Living Room at Gainey. My Pie 3/29, OHSO 4/11, AZ Air Time 5/2 5/23 Peter Piper with yearbook signing

Services - Courtney on behalf of Veronica - Belinda doing Edu Kit again. Yearbook in progress. Packing snacks for AZ Merit.

Raffle of APT parking spot - tickets collected, raffle held at the end of the meeting. Must be present to win.

Next meeting Friday, April 27, 2018

Erin Fox won the parking spot.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22am