

## ORCHARD ELEMENTARY PTA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES **UNOFFICIAL**

Monday, October 30, 2023, 1:00 PM

Orchard Elementary School Conference Room

*Items in black are what will stay in the official minutes. Items in red are just notes for clarity and commentary on what was said during the meeting. These will not appear in the official minutes.*

The meeting was called to order by President Amber Blackett at 1:10 PM. She led us in the pledge of allegiance.

Esther Gwynn, secretary, read the minutes from September's meeting and moved that, "they be accepted as read." Naomi Wagstaff seconded the motion. It passed with unanimous consent.

Becky Dorton, treasurer, read the financial report. She moved that, "the treasurer's report be accepted as presented." Amber Blackett seconded the motion, and it also passed with complete unanimity. **Highlights in this month's report (which is attached) was the money received from the Wilkerson Farms fundraiser and that we spent \$12/year to purchase the domain orchardpta.org to have emails for the board that will remain consistent from person to person, year to year.**

Cynthia Cardenás gave the principal's report which included the academic progress of Orchard Elementary. **This year's goals focused on reading, and they are being met. The official data will be released tomorrow to show what letter grade Orchard has earned this year. The grade is based on academics, proficiency levels, growth levels, and the progress of multilingual learners. This information will likely be available on news outlets. It should also be able to be found on the State Board of Education or similar website. Cynthia also said that the instruction of the teachers is incredible and that several of them have been filmed to show their style and abilities to other teachers around the state. Last year's kindergarten and fourth grade teams from last year will be receiving an award today (October 30, 2023) in honor of their work in student instruction. Way to go!**

**On December 12, there will be a study session presentation with district officials. It will be streamed at 4 pm (this is NOT the 6 pm board meeting, this is the study session prior to that). They will be proposing decisions for ALL, DLI, preschools, and other special programs to make them equitably accessible across the district. The meeting will be live streamed from a very small room at the district office. You can find out more info here: [School Board – Alpine School District \(alpineschools.org\)](https://alpineschools.org) They anticipate decisions to be made and finalized by January. It was also discussed that in the spring, the district will conduct a feasibility study to split the district. A third party out-of-state company who has conducted around 1,000 school district feasibility studies has been hired. This information, if a two or three-way split is found feasible, would potentially show up on a ballot for a public vote in November 2024. Again, this is just discussion information, and we strongly encourage everyone to research this information on their own as these notes are not definitive or expert on this topic. 😊**

Naomi Wagstaff, Council 9 Secretary, reminded us about the Orem PTA Pie Night. November 16, 7-8 pm at the Orem High Commons.

Debbie Winward passed on information from the advocacy PTA group. She reminded everyone to watch for their ballots in the mail and to encourage others to vote as well. Remember that the election is later in November than usual.

Amber gave a report on health night. **It was a great success for all! All positive feedback and many people really appreciated it.**

Marie McBride gave a report on Reflections. There were 147 entries! Which was the most from a school in the Orem area. The assembly was a huge success and the kids were really excited for each other.

Alicea Arnold and Zenalia Mejia gave a recap on Ribbon Week. They really liked having activities where the kids were learning and having fun at the same time. They mentioned the need for more parent volunteers to carry things out. Alicia suggested and offered to put together a binder similar to a Standard Operations Procedures to have some standards on what is generally expected of those planning Red Ribbon Week (and other events).

The upcoming Veteran's Day assembly will be on November 10. We will be encouraging Orchard families to make a poster with a picture and some information about a member in their family who served in the military. These posters will be placed around the school for the assembly. We are also looking for a group to do a color guard ceremony to present the flag at the beginning of the assembly. Amber has ties to the Candy Bomber Foundation who may be able to help with this.

Hope Squad is able to get going. Because our counselor is currently on medical leave, we have a temporary counselor and we aren't sure how long we get to keep her. Amber is working with her to start up Hope Squad. Amber has been fully trained in all of the Hope Squad things so that she can help keep things rolling no matter who ends up being the counselor at our school.

The Missoula Theater group will be here beginning January 29, 2024. Instead of workshops, they are planning to do an assembly this year. A scholarship may be available on a needs-based basis, and will go through Cynthia. Lori Willeitner and Naomi Wagstaff are in charge of coordinating the group.

Some concerns brought up from parents were that we use "room parent" instead of "room mom" as there are also men who help out at the school. This was widely agreed upon, and was just requested that we do our best but not get upset when someone slips and uses the old term as we adjust.

There were also questions about if the required background check has affected parent volunteers for parties and other things. Ultimately, the answer was no. Amber mentioned that the background check is to protect the kids, and that everyone around our kids should be a safe person.

A parent also asked if there was a survey that had been conducted among the teachers to see how they are feeling about the changes this year (the two-teacher model). There has not been a survey. It was mentioned that now that grades have come out, everyone feels a little less stressed and settled. When asked what we can do to help support and lift the teachers, we were encouraged to find ways to show our gratitude to the teachers in meaningful ways (letter, email, etc.)

The calendar items included:

- Nov 2: Picture Makeup Day
- Nov 5: Daylight Savings Ends
- Nov 8: Spanish Dance Performance, 5-7 pm
- Nov 10: Veteran's Day Assembly
- Nov 15: Café Rio Spirit Night
- Nov 16: SCC Meeting, 2:30 pm
- Nov 16: Orem PTA Pie Night, 7-8 pm, Orem High Commons
- **Nov 27: PTA Meeting @ 2:30 PM**
- Dec 5: Zupas

- Dec 14: SCC Meeting, 2:30 pm
- Dec 19: Christmas Sing (A-K 9-10am, L-Z 1-2pm)
- Dec 21: Minimal Day
- **NO PTA MEETING IN DECEMBER**
- Jan 8: School resumes
- Jan 24: Chick-fil-A Spirit Night

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 PM.