

Meeting 8/26/2021 on Zoom

Matthew Morgan, Stacey Kalember, Marni Davis, Sarah Laird, Caitlin O'Neill

1. Direct Asks. Matthew's thoughts from past experience (Live Oak Charter):  
Holding onto a \$25,000 reserve for “lean times.”  
**“Pledges.” Back to School night is the first ask, followed by emails (monthly, with updates “this is what we've been doing”), occasional reminders at field trip times.**  
An annual report showing (amongst other things) class giving amounts—point of pride, of course not to shame.  
Pledge coordinator for each class did not feel good—and had privacy issues.  
Coffee drop ins, table out front of school, concerts on-site, festivals.  
Amounts we ask: work backwards from budget. \$100/month? 77% participated—but a higher income community there.  
Pitch idea: “Remember when we all paid for preschool? What did you pay for that? Let's do 10% of that. Think of all the benefits you get.”  
What items are above and beyond at our school? Garden, PPL, food service, drama, Spanish club, music, art classes.  
Big projects: in the past, the Big Toy. “Fund a Need” rally people around particular topic (not a position though, as people come and go).  
**We now have about 190 kids at school (110 households). \$40k lump sum per year= \$20/month/kid.**
2. Communication between shARK and teachers : per Matthew, he's fine with shARK sending emails directly to teachers for Back to School night, and asking them to update their Amazon Wish Lists.  
We do want to avoid the teachers having to come to shARK for “asks.” We want the teachers to feel supported by the district. They should go to Administration with any “fund a need” concepts, etc. Faculty should be involved in that concept, the school community can as well. A community meeting earlier in the year is a good place to start.  
A SWING SET—our tire swing structure right now needs replacement. Create more towers/chill spots, for kids big and small. People will probably get behind this. The wood chips/bark is a poor surface, not good for anyone with mobility concerns. The bond can take care of a good portion of this. Structure at Dragon Playground, too?
3. Communication with families: **our (shark) general email, we need to check it, and if we can check it regularly—we should promote it more visibly.** The school should have a new system in place within days, for communication with families. They will share shARK blasts regularly.  
**Once a month, shARK gets the blast to Suzi and she text alerts it.**
4. Re: shARK funding for school this year. They still have funding through Covid packages this year. But Matthew stresses that he doesn't want to have families/volunteers STRESS about finances. **Stacy/Matthew agree that we don't need to commit to a set amount (internally) that shARK will contribute this year.** We can remain in communication about it as the year unfolds and we see how much we are raising.
5. Events. Delta has thrown us for a loop, we cannot commit to anything yet for Fall. We all agree that it would be quite healing to be able to gather (outdoors) this Fall though. Matthew's goal is for events to look more like this: daytime events at school, invite the families and maybe open to the broader community. Phase events per trimesters—fall, winter, spring. Start at the beginning of the school day with an assembly, and continue throughout the day with open houses, field day, etc. **Basically, the school would spearhead this type of thing, and we come**

**in to ask for money or to host one aspect of it.**

6. ShARK sponsored “coffee-walks” off campus (meeting in Freestone). Ok per Matthew.
7. Spanish as extracurricular activity starting this year—12 weeks in the Fall and 12 weeks in the Spring, after school until 4pm. Drama activities after school are another hope.
8. The school is probably, if approved by the board, going to take on the scheduling of the YMCA building in downtown Occidental. This opens up a lot of opportunities.
9. Jog-A-Thon/Color Run consolidated (to February) as a fundraiser/community event.