

## Foothill PTO Meeting Minutes

Thursday March 10, 2022; Zoom, 5pm

### 1. Welcome (Haylie)

- Attendees: Haylie Lott, Monica Mount, Suzanne Larson, Marnie Kasen, Stephanie Dobbie, Ranjeet Pawar.
- Vote to approve February 10, 2022 meeting minutes; minutes approved.

### 2. Guest Speakers for Garden To Table (Stephanie Dobbie and Marnie Kasen)

- Stephanie Dobbie is the Executive Director of Garden to Table (GTT).
- GTT is a nonprofit organization who partners with 18 bvsd schools to provide a school garden for student based learning development. It is both a program and partnership.
- Marnie is the lead GTT Foothill Elementary parent volunteer and liaison between the school and GTT.
- GTT plans to carry out their contract with Foothill which expires on December 31, 2022.
- In 2023 a change in fee structure is needed.
- **What GTT does** (a background of the organization, a lot goes into making a successful garden for a school):
  - Garden Management -
    - Provide everything schools need to grow and maintain a garden and use it for whole-school instruction.
    - Coordinate garden maintenance using parent volunteers, community volunteers and our staff and interns.
    - Conduct spring garden check ups and fall winterization.
    - Includes annual planting maps, seeds, seedlings, irrigation repairs, time sensitive delivery of program materials, mulch, compost, pest treatments, hoops for spring growing, storage and more.
  - Program management -
    - Provide a minimum of 2 standards-based lesson plans for all grades plus all supplemental materials in English and Spanish.
    - Seasonal sequence of lessons/tasks, coordinated with garden care, to provide living resources for study.
    - Scheduling tools to facilitate whole-school use of garden for instruction.
    - Structures, routines, documents and support for parent leads and lesson volunteers.
    - Seasonal lesson kits with physical materials for lesson execution (i.e. Planting kits, harvesting supplies, tools for exploration).
  - Training and Support -
    - Teacher Professional Development opportunity with stipend and CE credits (7.5 hours in spring and summer)
    - Parent Volunteer training with stipend (5 hours in spring and

summer)

- Recruit and supervise interns and community groups to maintain gardens.
- Hold community events and fundraisers to build awareness and support.

- **How GTT does it:**

- Their program provides gardens, curriculum and support so that schools can use their garden for school-wide instruction.
- Their partnership is required to -
  - Build school-specific culture of garden-based learning.
  - Engage the parent community in supporting teachers and tending gardens.
  - Encourage, train, support and incentivize teachers so that they feel confident and prepared to use the garden for instruction.
  - Communicate effectively with parents and teachers to implement the program.
  - Adapt to meet the changing needs of schools over time.

- Funding -

- 40% Foundations
- 25% Individual contributions
- 10% Government grants
- 10% Program fees
- 10% Events
- **Bottom line is that GTT will need to change more in the future.**

- **Future price changes:**

- Current costs for schools -
  - \$800 per year for every school.
    - This only covers 10% of the cost that GTT pays out.
    - This cost will remain the same for Foothill through December 31, 2022.
- Estimated future costs for schools -
  - Due to the changing times which is causing costs to go up, it is estimated that the yearly cost for school will be somewhere between \$8,000-\$12,000 or higher starting January of 2023.

- **Why such a significant increase in prices:**

- The landscape of gardening has changed.
- Foundations who give grants are not as interested in giving funds for districts who do not have an economic need.
  - Foothill does not face economic struggle, therefore, it is difficult to get foundation funds for a school like Foothill.
  - **What can help offset future costs:**
    - Health equity fund -
    - Grants -
      - Marnie was able to get a \$3,000 grant from Whole Foods a couple of years ago for school garden needs. She will try again this year.

- Special events with marketing
    - 18th annual Boulder Garden Tour
      - Currently seeking sponsors, starting at \$500.
      - [www.bouldergardentour.com](http://www.bouldergardentour.com)
- **Open discussion** (Haylie Lott, Monica Mount, Suzanne Larson, Marnie Kasen and Ranjeet Pawar):
  - Funding is heavily focused on title one schools.
  - Foothill will begin to pay for the program outright (other than assistance from the health equity fund and special events).
  - It is understandable why there is a future cost increase.
  - With Foothill's costs, is there something the school community can provide to help offset fees for the maintenance of the garden?
    - A neighboring school left GTT because there was a strong teacher/coordinator relationship. Marnie will stay connected with this school to see how they do.
    - Marnie will consider taking the Foothill gardener role in the future if programs like this succeed.
      - She wants to see what the teachers think and if they would be willing to help with the academic side of things.
    - Help desk sign ups coupled with fundraising would be super helpful. Track this to see how far this gets us and use this data for 2023.
  - The bulk of what GTT does is academic based programs, therefore, the teacher "buy-in" is important.
    - Teachers seem to need step by step plans to help them engage in the program.
    - Without these plans, the program will likely fizzle out.
  - Need to figure out what it is worth to the school community at large to determine next steps for keeping or not keeping this program.

### 3. Officer Reports

- a. Fundraising (Lisa and others)
  - Position still not filled. When looking for a candidate, perhaps explain that the commitment can be as short as the end of this school year (May).
  - Lauren Renni is not able to take this role for this year; maybe next year.
  - Cheryl Meyers was suggested as a possible candidate given her past experience in the role. Lisa will reach out to her.
  - Bylaws say we have split responsibilities until the position is filled.
  - Nick wants an open house at school in lieu of the spring fundraiser. He envisions parents and kids coming into the school with outdoor activities. He hopes this will be an opportunity to resurrect the bricks to grow program. He has an idea as to where the bricks should be placed. Nick's preferred date for the open house is April 7th.
  - Lisa thinks the open house is a great idea and is happy to funnel

her energy into this as the spring fundraiser for this school year.

- Monica will help with ordering the bricks; bricks are very profitable/have a high profit margin. She will also help with gift baskets and a couple of things to auction on.
- Haylie will handle the emails for the fundraiser.

b. Community (Lisa)

- Bingo Night -
  - Too cold this Friday; skip bingo for March and resume after Daylight Savings, April 8 (possibly change this so it's not so close to open house) & May 13.
- Heritage Night -
  - April 27, 5:30-7:30pm. Karla is hosting a meeting soon with her team of volunteers. Uncertain if it will be inside and/or outside. Teachers prefer evening for timing as opposed to during school hours.
- Bike Bonanza -
  - Tim and Stephanie have agreed to lead this again. John Miller has confirmed with Community Cycles that they can help us with a bike drive the same day/week as Bike Bonanza and that there will be a really nice bike for the student raffle prize.
  - Bike to School that morning
  - Bike donations that morning
  - A BIKE WEEK with all of these events
- Give To Grow -
  - This is a fundraising event led by the Fundraising Chair. Lisa has been in touch with Bailey from Rayback Collective regarding possible dates in May. She will now put a pause on this until next year because of open house plans.
- Rocky mountain day camp -
  - This camp offered two weeks of free camp in exchange for some type of "spreading the word" about their camp to the Foothill community. Possibly advertise at the open house as another auction item.

c. Treasurer (Monica)

- SAC meeting summary -
  - How to use the 25K. Nick proposed breaking it down to \$10K, \$10K, \$5 and sac was very supportive, especially of the courtyard and library improvements. Additional ideas were discussed but the instruction was to move forward on the courtyard and library improvements. There will be a more formal layout explaining the plan to come.
  - SAC really encouraged a fundraiser that is different from Fund the Fox and encouraged a spring fundraiser. They felt that the April 7th open house seemed very appropriate to fill this need. Possibly QR codes to help support the courtyard

and library improvements; different ways for people to give.

- 22/23 Budget -
    - Monica will meet with Nick and Haylie to draft the budget. She will bring this to the PTO and then to SAC to give opinion and then in May it is voted on. With this year's calendar we need to vote by mid April.
  - Monthly Results -
    - Staff Appreciation Week is the next biggest expense; staff meals and gifts. We need to discuss the details.
    - We had \$1,000 for staff appreciation week for this entire school year. Because \$1,000 is such a skinny budget we are down to \$200 because of staff gifts that have been purchased up until now.
    - We have gotten \$700 worth of donations.
    - Monica proposed an additional \$800 be added to the current budget which would bring it to \$1,000 for the week. \$800 was voted on and approved for this school year.
    - Monica proposed an increase for next year's budget to the amount of \$2500. \$2500 proposed budget for next school year will be voted on in May.
    - Help at schools for specific items like baked goods, drinks and such; seems like that would be very successful.
    - Should we have a help desk or not? Is Fund the Fox enough? Further discussion is needed.
  - Meeting Times -
    - Should we change the times of upcoming meetings? Maybe April 11th for the next one. Why 5pm meeting time with it being dinner time and after school activities. A vote was taken last year resulting in current time. Haylie in court during Thursday days. No formal changes were made.
  - Minutes -
    - Minutes are on the website now. Monica explained that we need meeting minutes on the website for as far back as we have access to.
- d. Communications (Ranjeet)
- No newsletter submissions.
  - Ranjeet is lost on calendar items. He needs a heads up on upcoming events.
  - What would we be willing to help with for the school? What are our skill sets? Can the PTO ask parents what they are savvy in?
- e. Principal's Report (Nick)
- All items covered in previous reports.
- f. President's Report (Haylie)
- All items covered in previous reports.
- g. Teacher Report (no teachers present)
4. Conclusion

- a. Comments from Attendees
- 5. Adjournment
- 6:45pm.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday April 14, 2022; ZOOM, 5pm

PTO MEETINGS HELD 2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, WHEN SCHOOL IS IN SESSION, FROM  
11:00AM - 12:30PM IN MAIN OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM

**DURING PANDEMIC, PTO MEETINGS HELD 2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, VIA ZOOM, AT  
5PM**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83618371248?pwd=ZjAyQ2VtN1V4L2RrcUtpczlvc3Vwdz09>**

**Meeting ID: 836 1837 1248**

**Passcode: d1PDmn**