

ORCHARD HILL ELEMENTARY POWWER MINUTES

Date: September 9, 2025

Time: 6:30 PM

Meeting called to order by: Darin Adams

IN ATTENDANCE

Darin Adams, Andrew and Nicole Bolthouse, James and Ashley Welter, Andrea Christopher, Traci Edson, Nick and Megan Gambell, Hayley Iehl, Shay, Melissa Hepler, Lisa Schweigel, Katie Keating

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

- FAST testing is done 3 times a year. Includes math and reading assessments. Fall testing happening now.
- New Staff
6th grade - Brooke Hillebrand
Special Ed - Mae Felton and Stacy Henley
1st grade - Coryn Clasen
Music - Lindsay Marks
- Orchard Hill is sharing specialists (Art, Music, and PE) with Southdale team. Orchard Hill specialists are teaching sections at North Cedar. Librarians stay at assigned school.
- Welcome back to Mrs. Watters (retired Orchard Hill teacher) who is filling in for Mrs. Rockwell while she is on maternity leave.
- Picture Day is Friday, September 19th
- Homecoming Week Dress Up Days
Monday 9/15 PJ Day
Tuesday 9/16 Neon Day
Wednesday 9/17 Hat Day
Thursday 9/18 Hawaiian Day
Friday 9/19 ~~Spirit Day~~ Dress Your Best Day (Changed due to picture day)
- Orchard Hill is a Lighthouse School and follows the 8 Habits of Highly Successful Students
- WIGS (Wildly Important Goals) will be different this year and not a yearly goal. There will be various monthly goals or challenges. This change will hopefully keep students more motivated, families can be more involved, and there will be fun incentives.
- Halloween celebrations will be Thursday, October 30th which is also a half day due to conferences. Students will be able to wear costumes.
- No school Friday, October 31st

- Mrs. Marks is writing grants to fund some of her music room needs. This includes items such as instruments for students. The total for what she would like is about \$7000. POWWER is looking into potentially filling in any deficits the grants don't cover.
- Mr. Voves, TAG teacher, wants to buy a light coding program/supplies for students to design a light show in front of school. The cost is around \$1200. Looking into possible donations or POWWER funding this project.
- Sunshades are tentatively being installed on playground in the fall.
- Each POWWER meeting there will be a short video highlighting a specific grade. Second graders and staff highlighted their year so far.
- Second graders are rotating teachers for different subjects. Data will be accessed to see if this model is successful. Sixth graders are rotating teachers for science, social studies, and authentic learning.
- Discussion about 5th/6th graders not having snack this year. Any concerns can be discussed with Ms. Chris.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Budget looking good for this year.
- Projected budgets between being able to hold fun fair or not this year were discussed.

HOSPITALITY

- Tentative schoolwide popcorn days will be October 17th, November 14th, and December 12th. Remainder of dates TBD.

OTHER UPDATES

- Kindergarten requested funds of \$1349.97 for Todo math app. Voted and approved.
- Funding of \$6000 for the IXL math app which is used in 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grades was voted on and approved.
- A new school directory for this year was requested. More information will be emailed to parents at a later date.
- Popsicles in the Park – TBD. Butterbraid fundraiser will be held in the fall. Looking into fundraisers through Texas Roadhouse and Fareway. Other ideas for fundraising are welcome and encouraged.
- Need volunteers to lead fun fair. If interested contact POWWER.

PURPOSE STATEMENT "...to promote the welfare and educational values of children and youth
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