



GARDEN CREEK HOME AND SCHOOL

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 20, 2025

Garden Creek School Library, 6:30 pm

Attendees

1. David Dennis
2. Marcia Franklin
3. Kymberley Gillett
4. Andy Han
5. Emma O'Connor
6. Christine Ritchie
7. Samantha Robichaud
8. Lily Smallwood
9. Hannah Steeves-Carney
10. Rebekah Thompson
11. Jennifer Ward

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Approved by Jen
- Seconded by Emma

Financial Report (Jen)

- **\$20,640.55** available to be allocated currently.
- If all Silent Auction items are paid for, we will net **\$19,724.00** for the Bazaar. However, we are still about \$410 short.

School Requests

- There are several school requests.
 - **Decisions Made:** We voted and approved to fund the following school activities:
 - Climbing wall – \$6,105.
 - Drama – \$500 (and we will also allocate one Spring Movie Night as a Drama Production fundraiser).
 - Grade 5 Field Trip – \$2805.
 - Funds for Teachers and EAs – \$4200.
 - Staff Appreciation lunch – Up to \$1500.

- TNB production (hosting a production at the school instead of a trip to the Playhouse) – \$750.
- Crazy carpet replacement - \$170.
- Items still being discussed:
 - Support for Creekers Helping Creekers – we may allocate a fall Movie Night or other fundraiser such as soup or coffee for them. We may also consider a Christmas Movie Night. We will re-open this in May and discuss the plan for support in the 2026-27 school year.
 - Book Fair Volunteers – Emma will help on February 4th right after school, Hannah will help on February 5th right after school and into the evening.
 - **Action Item:** Samantha to send a sign-up link for any additional volunteers. *(This has since happened.)*

Bazaar Wrap Up (Marcia & Jen)

- Alex previously shared that we raised \$19,200.00 at the Bazaar, but if we collect all Silent Auction money the actual total will be over \$19,700. Last year was a record-breaking year with \$18,600 and so this year's total was another new record! 😊
 - **Action Item:** Exec to acquire the list of remaining Silent Auction winners and try to contact them one more time.
- The Bazaar was a great success overall, with LOTS of positive feedback! Thank you very much again to everyone who helped and/or attended!
- **Action Item:** Marcia to circulate the survey link once more. If you have not yet added any feedback, please take a few minutes to share your thoughts.
- **The main opportunities for improvement include:**
 - The Activity Tickets line got backed up really quickly at the start and that made it difficult to move around, so we might want to think about how we can address this in the future.
 - We should also: include signage on pricing at the activity ticket station; have roamers outside selling tickets to people waiting in line 15 minutes before the doors open and inside until the major line clears up; stop selling tickets 15 minutes before the Bazaar ends.
 - Santa's Workshop was backed up for a bit early on and there were a few issues with temperature control.
 - Facepainting station needed more volunteers, which is an ongoing issue.
 - (Perhaps next year we could look for high school and university/community college students who need volunteer hours?)
 - Reindeer Food ran out of supplies for the second year in a row, which put pressure on the other activities. (Perhaps next year we should return to putting the desks into table groups as we did in previous years?)
 - Cookie Decorating also ran out of supplies, but we sourced more from the Bake Sale. The amount for this one is tricky to gauge, but the activity station notes have been updated accordingly.
 - A few people commented that the Bazaar was too short, particularly given the line-ups for activities were very long. Having many more face painters, more reindeer food, and more cookies could help to alleviate this. We could also consider options for opening one more station that can take several kids at once (like Cake Walk can) and/or extending the Bazaar by half an hour
 - **Open Discussion Items:**
 - The Bazaar runs 11-1:30 next year.

- One more activity runs in the main hallway that can take several students at once, such as a craft or a game like BINGO.
 - Kelsey Cameron sent feedback about the Creeker Café and has revised the amount of pizza needed. We would like to give her a huge shout out for all that she does, including cleaning the entire kitchen the night before the Bazaar. 😊
 - The Creeker Closet was a great success, and we plan to collect clothing donations for next year's Bazaar at this year's Grade 5 Movie Night. We will be looking for size small clothes in particular.
- **Suggestions:**
 - We should create a master fundraising template with comparatives, so we know how each station did in real time while totaling up.
 - For online theme basket sales, it would be good to have each ticket # down the rows and then the name in the column so it is easier to find when announcing winners.
 - All activity stations should have hand-sanitizer, so this should be added to the shopping list.
- **Other Bazaar items discussed include:**
 - The Activity Tickets table should be moved further back, through the doors into the Music hallway.
 - Santa should either be in the Photo Booth or in the Gym, as the hallways were too crowded for him to easily stop and talk to the kids.
 - We need more candy canes for Santa next year (and we also need to ensure that we have candy canes for the Cake Walk as consolation prizes).
 - **Open Discussion Item:** We may not be able to host the Bake Sale next year, or have Karuna selling food, as the school was recently notified that schools can only serve food that has been prepared in a licensed kitchen.

Grants Application for Shade Shelter

- Andy sent a picture of a shade shelter at FHS to Alex recently. We are currently waiting to find out how much a similar shelter would cost; Alex will be in touch. We will discuss in more detail when we know more.

Next Movie Night

- Tentatively scheduled for **February 20th** 2026.
- Exec is hoping that Alex can attend.
- Movie is TBD, but if it is out in time, *Zootopia 2* might be a good option.

Spring Fundraiser

- Scott's Spring Nursery – We are planning to run this again this year. Date TBD.
- Tailored Tots – We are planning to run this again this year. Date TBD.

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Submitted by Marcia Franklin

Garden Creek Home & School Association