

Family-Faculty Connection (FFC) General Monthly Meeting

September 10, 2025

Attendees:

Dusty Pedrotti, Linnea Miller, Adrienne Asdal, Christina Liu, Katerina Mansir, Anne Dennis, Arvind Sridharan, Blaine Sheppard, Dora Rowe, Jennifer B., Karthika Arunachalam, Mayumi Caalman, N. Martinez, Nesra Senol, Rola Elkadi, Rukmini Bedi, Sandra Atkinson, Shrinithi, Ely Exner

Agenda

- I. Call to Order: 6:34 pm
- II. Approval and/or Correction of Minutes
 - a. [May 14, 2025 General FFC Meeting](#)
No changes requested or noted.
Motion to Approve - Sandra
Motion Second by - Dora
Motion to approve the May 14, 2025 minutes passes unanimously.
 - b. [Special August 20, 2025 FFC Meeting](#)
No changes requested or noted.
Motion to Approve -Sandra
Motion Second - Dora
Motion to approve the Special August 20, 2025 minutes passes unanimously.
- III. Administration Reports
 - a. Mr. Pedrotti
We are off to a really great start of school year.
684 students are enrolled to date; there are the same numbers of teacher minus 1 returning; we did not have to lose anyone due to teacher retirements.
Today is day when principals will find out if they will gain/lose any additional teachers; we are status quo.
We started with two ESN classes, but we had one shut down due to a need at other schools.
Thank you to FFC – we are able to fund VAPA for 4th and 5th grade due to the split of funding responsibilities with FFC.
TK-3rd additional VAPA for theater and art has been allotted.
4th-5th music program is back.

Cardio Club is sponsored by the FFC and we are in day 3 of scanning with high participation.

Subscriptions and licenses – Achieve 300, Raz Kids, Generation Genius, etc. helped sponsored by FFC.

Safety Patrol is off to a great start- they were on the streets on day one of school; thank you to Ms. Miller for handling the program.

School Site Counsel and Governance Team – looking for a couple of parents to join.

Great new staff – new 3rd, new 5th, a new special education teacher, new nurse, two new PIFS, new front office staff.

Principal meeting occurred at end of summer, and 3 and 4 school were recognized for maintained their high test scores, and Dingeman was one of those recognized.

Christina suggests that we put out a social media shoutout for new teacher and staff; Mr. Pedrotti agrees.

Mr. Pedrotti appoints the following FFC faculty representatives for the 2025-2026 school year: Ms. Asdal, Mr. Joe and Ms. Boezle

Motion to ratify – Sandra

Second – Ely

Motion carries.

b. Ms. Miller

Ms. Miller wants to praise her SSP. Last year was a bit disorganized by this year, we have been assigned a new police officer, who has been a stable presence and very involved with the kids. She provided uniforms and gear to the SSP group right away so they were able to start on the first day of school. The kids have been great- still learning a lot but they are kind, cohesive and have each other's back.

IV. Staff Reports

a. Mr. Joe – not present

b. Ms. Boelzle – not present

c. Ms. Asdal

Staff very appreciative of reimbursements that FFC is going to provide; the staff is excited for grade level grants; hearing news of the bus was fun.

Follow up question re bus- when we do field trip communication and planning, what is the process for submitting paperwork for bus request with FFC? Mr. Pedrotti responded that every teacher gets a bus, but want to think about partnering with other teachers. A process for communicating if the request is an

FFC funded bus will be developed, likely using a spreadsheet. FFC will provide reimbursement for 26-27 buses.

Ms. Asdal indicates that Ms. Culapudes has offered to attend the meeting for Ms. Asdal when Ms. Asdal is unable to make the FFC meetings. Ms. Culapudes will vote for Ms. Asdal by proxy.

Noted that parents are having trouble signing up multiple students on one email account for the Fundraiser. Christina will include communication to families that multiple kids can be signed up on one parent log in, and family web page can be created.

V. Officer Reports

a. President – Christina Liu

Happy to be back!

Christina appoints the following individuals to serve as members at large: Dora Rowe, Karthika Arunachalam, Kelly Cortese and Seanade Scott.

Motion to ratify appointees – Sandra

Second the motion – Ely

Motion passes unanimously

Christina appoint Blaine Sheppard for FFC Counsel

Motion to ratify – Sandra

Second the motion -Dora

Motion passes unanimously

Big heartfelt thanks for programs and events we have done so far – there have been 13 since the summer – 4th of July parade, Dora's playdates, Staff Luncheon, orientation, back to school night, FFC in person meeting in August to pass the budget and amend bylaws, movie night, t-shirt sales, Tiger Rally, Volunteer Fair, Tiger Art Orientation, Pledge Drive kick off.

b. Treasurer - Rukmini Bedi

Rukmini provided a brief overview of the FFC forms found on the Dingeman website, highlighting the commonly used reimbursement request form posted on Dingeman.net: [FFC Forms](#)

Nest, Rukmini provided the Financial Overview as of August 31, 2025:

Starting Checking Balance \$262,918.57

Ending Checking Balance \$267,049.04

Savings \$30,577.07

Total Assets - \$297,626.11

August Deposits - \$5,868.37

August Expenses - \$1,737.90

VI. Standing Committee Reports

a. Tiger Art Academy – Sandra

Sandra finished all emails to classroom level art volunteers except for Ms. Marie Lee. Christina has volunteered to be the art liaison for Ms. Lee's class.

She has been inundated with emails responding back to the informational emails. Seven classes are currently missing liaison or leads, but Sandra has asked each group to assign someone from group to be the liaison or lead.

Calendar is filling up for Tiger Art Days.

A link to the Art Lesson Calendar will be sent to the teachers via Principal Pedrotti's hot sheet.

B19 is available for art lessons if a teacher agrees to hold the lesson there. A Google sheet will be set up to reserve B19.

b. STEAM - Greg/Kelly

i. STEAM Orientation: Monday, September 15th from 8:30-10:00am in the MPR (Video orientation will be sent out after the event for those who can't attend)

ii. ChompSaws: We purchased 4 ChompSaws to add to the Makerspace tools ([video](#)). This will be another kid-safe (ages 3+) tool that can be reserved on the device checkout sheet for STEAM lessons.

iii. Pledge Drive Tokens: Big bag in the Makerspace and will continue to print daily until we have all that are needed

c. EAR – Jessica could not attend the meeting this evening but provided the following report:

i. The EAR Committee has been working hard to get the program started. It's our goal to start with grades one and two in the next several weeks, possibly as early as next week in some classes, if that works for teachers. Some of our returning volunteers are ready to start reading with students. We will also reach out to the other grade levels soon.

ii. There are many facets to the organization of this program and we have been working hard.

iii. We have:

1. Done a lot of organization of the leveled books and the materials in the EAR space (updating folders, making copies, etc.)
2. Revised and given out forms to first and second grade teachers (other grade levels will be given soon)
3. Revised the parent letter and those will be distributed soon (a photo/video permission section was also added)
4. Prepared the RSVP for the October 3rd training- a separate email will be sent out by Mr. Pedrotti soon
5. Met with and given an orientation to a new community volunteer (who had the training in the past)
6. Talked with volunteers at the volunteer fair and they filled out volunteer interest forms for EAR- we will email them (and all of the volunteers who signed up on the FFC form) to arrange a time to talk with them soon
7. Met with Mr. Pedrotti to discuss the program
8. Met with Ms. Rudden to discuss ways to help in Kindergarten
9. Created a document to give to PreK-Kinder teachers regarding availability and ways to help in their classes- this will be in their boxes soon
10. Emailed EAR volunteers from last year to check interest and get availability
11. Started creating schedules for the returning volunteers and the teachers who have given us their forms
12. Started preparing for the October 3rd training
13. If anyone could help with dusting off the reading areas outside of the classrooms, that would be greatly appreciated.
14. Also, please emphasize our gratitude to everyone for everything they do!! This is our 6th year of EAR! We are looking forward to another year together! (The program was started in our school in 2019-2020, but we couldn't resume the program until the 2021-2022 school year.)

d. Yearbook – Laura was absent but provided the following report:

Laura reported that she has decided to stick with our current company Entourage this year. The major reasons for her decision were the ease of communication and the cost per book. We have a dedicated rep that is easily available for questions anytime and yearbooks end up being around \$10 cheaper each.

We have classroom volunteers for Yearbook set in almost all classes except the following:

UTK: Ms. Durnell/ Ms. Martinez/Ms.Beal

1st: Ms. Gonzalez

Ms. Southern

5th: Ms. Novo/ Ms. DaVersa

Laura will be planning an introductory meeting in the next few weeks for Volunteers after Entourage finishes an update that should be complete this week.

Ms. Asdal – although she has a parent volunteer for yearbook, can we ask yearbook company if there is a recommended way to share photos to create ease of sharing. Christina will discuss with Laura to ask vendor

e. Cultural Committee – Rola

Rola is very excited for the second year of the Cultural Committee.

The first meeting is on Sept 26 at 8:30. She is encouraging more parents to join the meeting to discuss how to celebrate holidays and special cultural occasions this year; maybe set date when we do the cultural paper dolls- maybe earlier this year? Lots of request for information regarding the Cultural Fair/Spring Festival already!

Rola confirms that the Lunar New Year will be celebrated with the same bad this year!

Social Media post for upcoming meeting is forthcoming.

f. Box Tops – Mayumi

We have a banner advertising the Box Tops campaign on campus!

\$270 has been earned this year so far.

Mayumi will promote the program till end of November.

g. Family Dinner Night – Anne

- i. Yogurt Heaven raised \$265.31
- ii. Rubio's raised \$378.77
- iii. Surfside planned for Wednesday, Oct 15th – all day

h. Spirit Gear – Ely

We have had several successful sales to date, one at Welcome Back Event, and another last Friday, September 5th. Sales of shirts with the new logo have been quite good. We plan to have another sale in early October.

i. Volunteering – Karthika

All classrooms have room parents.

We still need volunteers for Family Science Night – we have 5 or 6 people signed up on line, although we need about 5 more people.

Social Media post will need to be created for the event; she will touch base with Divya.

To date, there are 287 volunteers signed up to be Dingeman volunteers!

VII. Special Committee Reports

a. Movie Night recap – Naree

August 22nd was our first Movie Night of the year, featuring Lilo & Stitch Live Action
Thank you to all the volunteers to make it possible.

Concession sales were a success. We purchased our own popcorn machines this year and sold enough popcorn to pay for the machine. We sold out on pizza.

\$2,106.60 total concession sales after fees were deducted from Square.
Concession sales is close to covering everything.

b. Pledge Drive - Christina

To date we have a total donation amount of \$26,542.

A reminder, that even if donation is via envelope, everyone needs to register on Fundhub to allow for easier tracking and administrative ease.

We are hoping to meet the \$30,000 goal in the next few days, with the ultimate goal of reaching our \$65K goal!

c. Family Science Night -Divya is absent but Christina provided the following report

FSN is scheduled for September 24 from 6:00-7:30 pm.

Fleet Science Center is sponsoring the event.

Volunteers can sign up at the following:

<https://www.getmovinfundhub.com/event-webpage/689dce3f704646.15067889>

VIII. Old Business

a. Dingeman.net website upgrades – Dora

Webpage is being updated.

Where we are in the process – testing out Membership Toolkit – for sign up; help with online donation; purchase of swag; may be able to do Fundhub with Tiger Trot, etc.

Timeline – had some meetings; free trial in October – plan to do some testing the 2nd week of October; 3rd week of October – regroup and set up other testing. Start rebuilding our current website with new platform in January with a plan rollout date of new website with new membership toolkit service by end of the school year. The hope is to use the new service for Pledge Drive next year.

She needs some input from teachers – what is their wish list for utility/capability? Which teachers can we approach for feedback? Mr. Pedrotti – send Google survey to teachers; Adrienne – she is happy to help test. Dora will send out survey.

IX. New Business

none

X. Announcements

none

XI. Adjournment

***Next FFC meeting: October 8, 2025 at 6:30p, Online**