

TCGIS PTO Meeting Minutes – August 11, 2011

In Attendance:

Kari Swedberg (president), Lisa Antony-Thomas (vice president), Heidi Zimmermann (archivist), Michelle Sheire (secretary), Gina Vader, Britta Walker, Marcus Sheire, Karin Spencer, Julie Elias, Mickey Jurewicz-Grunheid, Cynthia Miller, Amy Davis, Krista Johnson, Kate Olson, Rebecca Johnson, Elvira Houben-Schlag, Tom Farrell, Annegret Theis, Molly McBeath, Valentin Solakhau, Theresa Borgren, Sarah Bailey

Meeting called to order at 6:32 PM.

New Business

- Temporary intern family needed

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Gina, seconded by Rebecca to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Approval of June Minutes

Moved by Kate, seconded by Rebecca to approve the June meeting minutes. Motion carried.

President's Report

Attendees briefly introduced themselves. Kari thanked everyone for coming, especially incoming Kindergarten parents. Kari introduced Sarah Bailey, the school's new Site Administrative Manager. Kelly Huxmann, Julie Elias and Krista Johnson were thanked for their hard work over the summer on the 2011-2012 school year calendar (Kelly and Julie) and updating the "New Parent Field Guide" (Krista).

Two volunteer opportunities were announced: Yahoo Group Moderator (please note that the Yahoo Group is not an official communication method of the school or the PTO, but a way for parents to informally connect) and help is needed moving lockers Friday, August 12 at 2:30.

Treasurer's Report

Danielle Sanders absent, so Molly McBeath, past-Treasurer, gave brief report. The 2010-2011 year has been successfully closed out and documents passed on to Danielle.

Committee Reports

- *Parent Outreach:* Making plans for the August 25 Open House.
- *Classroom Parents:* Looking for classroom Eltern Kontakte (EK). The Open House will be the first formal opportunity to sign up, followed by the messages in the PTO newsletter and the September 6 PTO Meeting/Info Night.
- *Fundraising:* The first fundraiser of the year, the Chinook Book, will begin sales at Info Night. Leftover T-shirts from the last sale will be available for sale at the GAI's Familienfest.

- *Education Support:* Kari reported the committee is working on a grant to get recycling bins for the lunchroom and to help with other recycling projects. This year, school tours for prospective families will take place Thursday mornings at 8:30 AM.

School Board Report

Marcus Sheire, TCGIS Board Parent Liaison, reported that there were two board meetings this summer including a special session. At the July meeting, two new administrative office hires were approved; contingency plans were discussed because of the government shutdown (the school has reserves and a line of credit, not worried at this point); and discussed facilities planning (see below). The special session was to review an employee manual.

Facilities Committee Update – There are two more years on the current lease. The committee is actively looking for the next building. They are looking within a five-mile radius of the current location and looking at both schools and other buildings that could be built out to meet TCGIS needs. The committee will hold a community meeting in the fall about facilities planning and an email will go out next week with a complete update. The school community will be informed throughout the process.

Authorized Signature Change

The TCGIS PTO bylaws state, "Two authorized signatures shall be required on each check over the amount of \$200. Authorized signers shall be the president and the treasurer. The membership may also designate a member of the school administration as an additional authorized signer."

Moved by Britta, seconded by Gina, that Sarah Bailey be the administrative representative to sign checks. Motion carried.

Funding Requests

Valentin Solakhau, TCGIS performing arts teacher put two requests for after-school activities.

- Blumenkranz – Dance group open to all students 4th grade and up
- TCGIS Ensemble/Consort – open to all students

Currently both groups exist with volunteer leaders. Funding would help to support and expand both programs. The goal of Blumenkranz is to represent the school at public events and benefit students by teaching German culture and dance. The existing Strings Group has been around for three years and positively promotes the school. Funding would allow for expansion and to build an ensemble with wind, string, and percussion instruments. TCGIS parent, Theresa Borgren, would be the paid instructor of Blumenkranz.

There were many questions and thorough discussion on both requests. Questions/discussion included:

- Instrumental lessons at school still happening? Lessons would be separate from group.
- Do kids already need to know how to play? Must have lessons and an instrument to be part ensemble.
- Conflict of interest to pay a parent for the group?
- How much money is in the general fund? \$3500 – more than last year.

- Where has money gone in the past? To pay an accountant for PTO taxes, playground, other programs.
- It was mentioned important not to spend majority of general fund in the beginning for the year as things come up, particularly with the 40% hold-back the school is facing this year.
- What about a completely parent funded? Is there a demand for a free program like this?
- The dance group currently has two requests for performances.
- Is this a one-time funding request? Or same request annually?
- Have grant opportunities been investigated?
- Does this really meet the mission of the PTO? Would this reach enough students to benefit spending the money? Is it the role of the PTO to promote the school?
- When group is requested to perform, should a fee or suggested donation be charged?
- Both groups good for promoting the school.
- Would the PTO have to start other fundraisers to continue to support?
- What about other after-school programs? Sports, etc.?

Moved by Britta, seconded by Gina, the PTO will fund the Fall Semester of Blumenkranz at \$350 for the first trimester with the stipulation that parents contribute \$2 a week and that the sign-up form offers opportunity to donate excess toward scholarships. Scholarships will be available through the PTO to be administered anonymously by the TCGIS office. Motion carried.

Moved by Rebecca, seconded by Gina, the PTO will fund the Fall Semester of TCGIS Consort at \$275 for the first trimester with the stipulation that parents contribute \$2 a week and that the sign-up form offers opportunity to donate excess toward scholarships. Scholarships will be available through the PTO to be administered anonymously by the TCGIS office. Motion tabled.

Motion tabled to have more time to discuss and to get more feedback from key people including current organizers of the strings group.

The by-laws were checked to ensure there is no conflict of interest in funding Blumenkranz thus benefiting TCGIS parent Theresa Borgren. The requirements conflict of interest requirements have been met.

Additional Item: Temporary Intern family needed

Heidi reported that a family is needed for an Amity intern for three weeks while the host family is out of town. Contact Heidi or Ina Elliot for more info.

Moved by Lisa, seconded by Heidi, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting Closed At 8:37 PM.

Next Meeting:

6:30 – 7:00 PM, September 6, 2011 immediately followed by Info Night at 7:00 PM in the school cafeteria.