

11-1-10 PTO Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Gina Vader, Rebecca Johnson, Molly McBeath, Lisa Antony-Thomas, Michelle Sheire, Britta Walker, Nicole Grenz, Heidi Zimmermann, Kari Swedburg, Nancy Bostrum, Krista Johnson, Susanne Grimm, Chris Weimholt, Ina Elliot, Leslie Watson, Scot Stephenson

6:36 pm call to order by President Gina Vader

Addition to agenda

Approval of minutes: Michelle Sheire motioned, Kari Swedburg seconded. Approved.

6:38 Molly Treasurer Report. Teachers are using their classroom funds. Auflauf was successful-good time was had AND we made money. No plant sale this season. Gina is working on a clothing sale. Leslie asked about clothing pricing-will we consider upping the price to increase profit? We are going with a different vendor and have decided to keep it reasonable, but we will still make a bit of a profit. Also, the library will be having a sale, not necessary to make a profit, but to offer sales of German books to families. Globalbooks.com and Amazon.de. Leslie asked about setting up Amazon so PTO is a recipient of funds. Heidi confirmed this would happen. Molly cautioned about the limit of events we are allowed as a PTO per year. The fundraising and library committees will meet and decide how to proceed-should we combine some events? Leslie Watson stated that the playground fund can come back into the budget. Leslie asked about the \$5000 reserve money. See budget report for more info.

6:46 Funding Requests. Gina Vader asked to fund Schultuten from Creative Kidstuff. They are willing to sell to us. \$300, which would be 3 years worth of Schultuten. Some discussion about where the items would be stored. They apparently flatten up quite nicely and Gina will talk to the KG teachers about keeping them in their classrooms.

6:50 pm Leslie Watson on behalf of Valentin Solakau. Funding request for Fleming Family Performance. \$250. Discussion raised as to how this might benefit or be meaningful for the children. Britta Walker suggested adding this to the form. Some further discussion about how this would be available for the entire school. In the cafeteria as have past performances? The Fleming Family is available for a Thanksgiving (general time frame) performance.

Kari Swedburg moved to fund the request. Krista Johnson seconded. Approved.

7:04 p.m. Maskenball Report. Rebecca Johnson reported that sponsor requests have been sent out to GACC. Items are being requested for the Silent Auction. Michelle Sheire talked about the Passport Booklet. Businesses or local businesses donate \$30 and they get a spot in the coupon booklet in return. People are encouraged to solicit donors. Michelle will post on the yahoo group. Krista Johnson asked and Michelle explained that there will be a link sent out to use as a formal request form. We are hoping for 250 guests at MB. The idea is to eliminate small donations and multiple businesses with the same product. Basically the coupons will reach 250 (or MORE) MB guests versus the limited audience that may

bid on one item. Molly asked about guests attending the GACC xmas dinner as a relationship builder. Leslie commented that she didn't think it was necessary for the PTO to send a guest. Eric Hauth-Schmid will attend. Molly felt that it has to potential to build and maintain relationships. Nancy Bostrum said family members are attending more GAI/GACC events. Leslie and Molly both agreed that it was a lovely time. Rebecca Johnson offered to show the MB budget to anyone interested-just email her. MB committee is also looking for a persons to serve on a Marketing position. Contact Rebecca if interested.

7:13 p.m. Board Report. Susanne Grimm on behalf of Eric Hauth-Schmid. Annual report is online as of now. Yearly audit is coming up. Results will be discussed at the next Board meeting. There is a stipend that needs to be paid by TCGIS for the middle school position that is funded by the German Government. The Board needs to figure out what that amount is and needs to make sure the person is a suitable fit. Board Elections are also coming up. Discussed an annual meeting, but given the space constraints, we will continue with Elections done as last year (come in and vote in the school lobby) and any pertinent info will be presented at the State of the School Address. Also at the State of the School will be a discussion of Middle School Philosophy.

7:20 p.m. Parent Survey Results. Nancy Bostrum shared results of the Parent Survey. This was conducted between June 11-26, 2010 and was shared with the Board at the July 2010 meeting. Please see those notes for more details.

Questions raised:

- *Will you add a question at the end that allows for "any other comments or concerns?" [yes]
- *Board "rating" was only at 40% and that low score might be just that people are not as connected to the Board as they are to their teachers or office and also some people "don't care" how or if the Board communicates with them.
- *Results have not yet been shared with staff persons.
- *Discussed defining "event" versus "PTO" to more accurately reflect where people are volunteering.
- *Liane asked how do you handle specific comments. Nancy explained that she reads all the comments and looks for themes. Anything glaring or concerning would be shared with the respective person/group.

Chris Weimholt stated and everyone echoed many thanks for putting together and presenting the info.

7:50 p.m. Greening Effort. Scot Stephenson and Liane Gale presented on the Green conference they recently attended. Some states have legislation that defines a "green school" but not in MN. Some examples of green products are dry erase markers that are refillable. Pencils made from recycled tires. Some of these items are offered as fundraisers. Scot enjoyed seeing Phillippe Costeau who shared a sense of urgency about the environment. Scot is considering changing one of his afterschool activities to be a Student Greening Initiative. He will also encourage/challenge teachers to think of ideas and ways to make the school GREEN.

Liane's comments: Jim McGrath, Exec Director of Green Schools National Network.

People at the conference from 50 different states. 800 people in attendance. High School students represented at the first ever Youth Conference. Following are a list of resources presented by Liane.

Rachel Gutter Center for Green Schools www.greenschoolbuildings.org

Jayni Chase Center for Environmental Education www.greencommunitieschools.org

www.cceonline.org

Michelle Bouchard HealthCorps www.healthcorps.org

Richard Louv author Last Child in the Woods

Phillipe Cousteau EarthEcho International www.earthecho.org

Movie carbonnation.tv.

Smart by Nature, Michael Stone www.ecolieracy.org

Green my Parents, Tom Feegel www.greenmyparents.com

Corporate guide to service learning Cathryn Berger Kaye

Energy Efficiency www.lenerchange.org

Smart by Nature Schooling for Sustainability Michael Stone

www.greencupchallenge.net

www.keec.ky.gov

www.suborbitat.org

www.issa.com

www.healthyschoolscampaing.org

Ruth McCully sent Liane her presentation.