

TCGIS PTO Meeting Minutes June 1, 2009

Attendees: Kate Olson, Gina Vader, Molly McBeath, Leslie Watson, Heidi Zimmermann, Michelle Nellis, Britta Walker, Nicholas Moelders, Renee Moelders, Katy McCarthy, Eric Dregni, Emily Metcalfe, Ben Mueller, April Pearson, Kari Swedberg, Liane Gale, Nicole Grenz, Kim Kompel, Kami Blackwell-Kinney, Julie Elias, Lisa Friedman, Kimberly Feilmeyer

Location: Ratskeller, GAI

Start time: 7 pm

The meeting was attended by several parents of incoming Kindergarten students. Therefore, attendees introduced themselves. Lisa Friedman then moved to approve the May minutes. Gina Vader seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Kate Olson moved to approve the amended agenda, with a deletion of Funding Request (General Fund) #2 (Cardstock for "Box Top" summer collection). Gina Vader seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Molly McBeath suggested including into the agenda a discussion about a welcome of the new director Annika Fjelstad, which was folded under the Parent Outreach Committee Update.

Treasurer's Report

Molly McBeath presented the current financial status of the PTO. Compared to projections, the PTO was ahead \$1000. As information to incoming parents, Gina Vader gave an overview on the philosophy and specifics of fundraising for TCGIS. Fundraisers are not child-driven, but instead adults do the fundraising. Fundraising efforts also focus on being environmentally friendly. The PTO has set a goal of raising \$19,300 for the 2009/2010 school year, whereby 1/2 of the amount is expected from proceeds of the "Maskenball".

Funding Requests (General Fund)

A total of \$600 was left in the general fund. A number of funding requests were discussed.

#1-T-shirts for departing teachers. Susanne Grimm submitted this request, at a cost of \$65. Lisa Friedman moved for its approval, seconded by Gina Vader. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

#3 –Contribution to busing for 4th-grade's September field trip. According to Cornelia Sampson, busing costs to the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center in Fergus Falls are \$1250 and a funding request was made to cover some of the cost. It was thought that TCGIS would contribute \$200. A discussion ensued. Kim Kompel suggested to provide \$600 funding to support a worthy cause. Kate Olson warned about committing money for field trips, due to high costs that are recurring. Lisa Friedman, chair of the Education Support Committee, stated that Marcy Zachmeier-Ruh, Director of Curriculum, had spoken of grant opportunities that exist specifically to fund field trips and the Education Support Committee will apply for funding for the 2009/2010 school year. Britta Walker supported funding for this specific field trip. Kimberly Feilmeyer suggested a

flexible one-time funding. April Pearson stated that even if we approve the funding request and the Education Support Committee is then able to secure funding, we are under no obligation to spend the money. Gina Vader motioned to approve the request for up to \$600; Molly McBeath seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#4 -T-shirt Inventory Purchase

A request by Silke Moeller asked the PTO to front costs for kindergarten-sized T-shirts at \$150, as TCGIS cannot front these costs. T-shirts will be sold at cost. Kim Kompel noted that the money will come back as t-shirts are sold. Lisa Friedman motioned to approve the request, seconded by Britta Walker and the motion carried unanimously.

As the PTO has a surplus of \$1,000, it was stated that additional requests could get funded.

Business Items

Budget revision for 501(c) (3) fee

The user fee for application for exempt status was budgeted for a reduced user fee (\$300) that is for applicants whose gross receipts average \$10,000 or less. Leslie Watson explained that we are too wealthy to qualify for this reduced user fee, necessitating a budget revision to account for the actual user fee expense of \$750. Lisa Friedman motioned to approve an additional \$450 that is necessary to apply for exempt status, Gina Vader seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Lowe's PTO grant application - informational

Lowe's "Toolbox for Education" program funds projects between \$2,000 and \$5,000. The purpose is to improve children's schools with a 2009 focus on basic needs. Lowe's only accepts the first 1,500 applications, necessitating a timely submission. Kim Kompel's suggestions included landscaping and a fence, but she also stated that no money for planning has been allocated. Kim Kompel moved to issue a blanket approval for the grant writers (Leslie Watson and Molly McBeath) to identify needs. Nicole Grenz seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

GIEF update / Executive Board authority

Kim Kompel provided a review of the history and purpose of the German Immersion Education Foundation (GIEF), a non-profit organization that was formed to raise money to support Kinderstube (pre-school program) and TCGIS. The major fundraising activity of GIEF was "Maskenball", which is now organized by the PTO. When in school year 2008/2009, none of the board members of GIEF had children attending TCGIS, parents of current TCGIS students joined the board, i.e. Molly McBeath, Joe Huebsch and Kim Kompel. Though an initial idea was that the PTO and GIEF could unite, the PTO decided to go forward to file its own 501(c)(3) application. Now, the future of GIEF needs to be decided. One aspect to be considered is support of Kinderstube. Kinderstube is not supported by the TCGIS PTO. A motion was made by Kim Kompel to give authority to the Executive Board of the PTO to enter discussions with the GIEF Executive Board concerning GIEF's future planning. Kami Blackwell-Kinney seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Potential short-term loans to new overseas teachers

Potential bridge loans for new overseas teachers were briefly discussed. Lisa Friedman asked what we would do if somebody does not pay back. Kimberley Feilmeyer and Michelle Nellis brought up initial housing for new overseas teachers that could be provided through parents. The need for a welcoming committee for new teachers was identified. Sylvia Oxenham is working on a manual for incoming new teachers and Michelle Nellis is working on an "ABCs of TCGIS" that will put together information for new teachers by returning teachers.

Meeting time & childcare - 2009-2010 school year

A new meeting time for the monthly PTO meetings was proposed, from 6:30p.m. to 8 p.m., that will offer childcare, especially to enable single parents to attend the meetings, which will take place the first Monday of the month at the school building. As the first Monday of the month in the new school year will fall on Labor Day, Britta Walker moved to hold the first PTO meeting on Tuesday, September 8, the day after Labor Day. Kim Kompel seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Committee Updates

Classroom Support Committee

Kami Blackwell-Kinney, Chair of the Classroom Support Committee provided a **Classroom Parent recruitment update**. The Committee requested feedback from Classroom Parents (CP) for the 2008/2009 school year. Responses will be collated. and CP roles will be formalized accordingly. CPs for the new school year will be recruited at the Open House. For the Kindergarten classes it is hoped that veteran parents can be recruited.

Games for Year-End Picnic

Games for year-end picnic still need to be more organized.

Parent Outreach Committee

Field Guide Update / Survey Respondent Prize Drawing

Silke Moeller was the winner of the survey respondent prize drawing and received a bottle of wine.

Inaugural "Great Gathering"

A Great Gathering will take place at the house of Gina Vader on Saturday July 25 at 6:30 p.m. A donation of \$15/person is requested.

Due to the advanced hour, the last agenda item "**Recap of Summer Work**" was only briefly mentioned to consist of a meeting of PTO members with the new director Annika Fjelstad, and that an informal July PTO meeting will take place.

A move to adjourn was made by Kim Kompel at 9 p.m., which was seconded by Liane Gale.

Submitted by Liane Gale, PTO Secretary.