

TCGIS PTO Meeting Minutes – November 1, 2011

In Attendance:

Kari Swedberg (president), Lisa Antony-Thomas (vice president), Heidi Zimmermann (archivist), Michelle Sheire (secretary), Mickey Jurewicz, Elvira Houben-Schlag, Cindy Miller, Ina Elliot, Elisa Scwalbach, Nicole Grenz, Kate Olson, Rebecca Johnson, Karin Spencer, Marcus Sheire, Alex Weeding, Angela Schultz, Gina Vader, Britta Walker

Meeting called to order at 6:34.

New Business

- MN Advocates for Immersion Network, Ina Elliot

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Rebecca Johnson, seconded by Mickey Jurewicz to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Approval of October Minutes

Moved by Lisa Antony-Thomas, seconded Mickey Jurewicz to approve the October minutes. Motion carried.

President's Report

Auflauf a success! Kari thanked the planning committee: Mickey, Heidi, Lisa, and Deanna. Thanks to all the servers. If you have any receipts from the event, submit them to Dani. A final total will be reported once all of the expenses have been accounted.

The school is looking for volunteers to sit at an info table for recruiting at the Landmark Center for St. Martinstag Day. Contact Annika or Sarah if available.

Treasurer's Report

Danielle was not able to attend the meeting, report given by Kari.

- Reimbursements for teachers now total: \$617.74 of the \$7,000 budget
- Amount Annika has spent of her Directors Fund: \$500.24 of the \$2,000 budget
- Amity Appreciation has spent: \$162.32 of the \$800 budget
- Coffee supply costs have been \$103 with an income of \$190.58 – net of \$87.58
- Chinook Books has sold \$580 in total of which \$290 is towards TCGIS
- Calendars cost us \$403 of which we've recouped \$273
- Admin fees have totaled: \$372 out of \$1,347 budget
- Auflauf has brought in about \$700 unofficially (final numbers haven't been calculated)
- Donations total: \$50

So far things are on track for the beginning of our school year budget. Danielle will be contacting each teacher and making them aware of their budget and how much they have spent out of it in the near future.

Committee Reports

Classroom Support Committee – the committee will provide dinner from Pizza Luce for the teachers for the evening conferences on November 4. EKs will be reminded about gift giving expectations: Individuals can give gifts for the holidays; a collective gift will be given at the end of the year. This is the same way as last year. Karin will send an email to teachers about how they spend their discretionary fund money on what \$\$ were used for. Could be used in the newsletter to highlight where \$\$ go.

Parent Outreach Committee – Krista Johnson heading up the next collection drive. She will organize a coat drive. Looking for someone to organize December collection.

Fundraising – Chinook Books are still on sale. Sales are down since last year. Still need Ruhland Strudel volunteer. Sue Westacott would mentor. Makes up to \$1200 for the school.

The 3rd annual craft & bake sale in take place 11/18 after school and 11/19 Saturday morning. Notice will be in the Elternbrief next week. New this year, cider and coffee will be sold as well as cake by the slice. Cake money may go toward Germany trip for the middle school.

The Maskenball committee is working on getting event sponsorships, while the auction committee is working hard at getting donations for the auction.

Education Support Committee – Gina Vader is taking over as chair of committee. One of the things the committee will work on is a yearbook. This will be offered as afterschool program for grades 5 - 7 The committee will also be working on bulk purchasing for school supplies, conducting school tours, and Trick or Treat for Unicef. They will also look at doing another parent talent survey. When it was sent out last year, only 16 people responded.

School Board Report

Marcus Sheire summed up the last board meeting:

Director's report – enrollment down, lost four kids, gained one. The Marketing/recruitment committee working on recruitment; they are hoping to have 150 applicants for next year New website. Vendor selected.

The school purchased Atlas Rubicon a curriculum tool that provides a cross-section view of what was taught and results. Will take awhile to get up to speed.

MCA scores - Did not do well except 4th grade. Annika and Susanne Grimm did deep analysis of scores. One of the issues is that the state of Minnesota changed the tests, because of this curriculum was not matched to test. Teachers whose students did well will coach other teachers. Will do interim testing of kids to benchmark, so corrections can be made if needed.

The meeting ended in a closed-door session.

Facilities Update

Marcus Sheire gave a summary of the Facilities Committee info night that was held in October.

- Charter schools have limits on what we can do with building in terms of owning vs. leasing. Options for charters include leasing or owning a building. Organizations can't own a building until in existence for 8 years.

- Forming own non-profit for the facility search to raise money for a building and other related expenses
- Building lease aid can only be applied to building, not maintenance – heat, etc.
- Two years left on current lease. Main issue with current space is the area out front, Dickerman Park. The city has plans in place to develop the area, leaving the school with no outdoor play space. It is not known when or if the park will be developed, but could happen.
- The committee has toured many possible buildings including vacated public schools (not a lot of options as districts tend to shy away from leasing to charter schools), parochial schools, and commercial buildings
- The committee has a very structured process and will get parent input along the way. The options will be scored and weighted. There is not one ideal location.
- In terms of ownership, the likely scenario is to issue bonds to raise capital.
- The committee is working with team of professionals including a commercial real estate agent and an architect.
- The committee estimates we can afford \$6 million facility + operating costs. Another option is to get something cheaper and convert it to meet our needs. The school's revenue based on the number of students.
- Estimated nine-month process to find and move to a new building.
- We have the option of staying in the current building. Angela Schultz volunteered to look at the options with Dickerman Park again to see what the options are there, if any.
- The committee is also looking at partnerships with other schools and organizations
- In terms of the bid on Howe, the Minneapolis school district does not seem to have definitive plans for the space.
- It was asked if comments from the perspective parent tours are passed on to the board and/or facilities committee. Marcus said he would follow-up on this.

Funding Request

Ina presented a funding request on behalf of the Amity Committee for an intern reimbursement. A group of interns had an emergency beyond their control; because of this they incurred a late fee for returning a rental car. Discussion took place about whether or not the intern who paid the fee should be reimbursed, and if so, from what account the Amity committee line item or the general fund?

Move to give the Amity Committee \$172 from the general fund to reimburse overage fee on rental care accrued due to intern health emergency. Britta Walker moved, Rebecca Johnson seconded. Approved unanimously.

MAIN

MN Advocates for Immersion Network was originally started as a network for administrators, now more of a parent group. Immersion schools have similar issues, so a great place to discuss and learn from one another. If interested in participating, the next meeting is November 17. Ina will post an announcement in Elternbrief, Yahoo Groups, and on Facebook

Auflauf

Auflauf was a success again this year. The group brainstormed ways to improve for next year:

Instead of interns for look for outside volunteers or perhaps pay someone to help in the kids' area

- Location to stay same
- Oversold event, a lot of drop-ins
- Say no to last minute people
- Try to get started earlier
- Perhaps have three lines for food
- Have kids decorate and serve food again
- Non-judgmental dessert buffet worked out great, next year put the desserts out later

Moved by Kate Olson, seconded by Heidi Zimmermann to adjourn meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:02 PM

Next Meeting Info: December, 6 2011, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, Location TCGIS