

6/6/2011

TCGIS PTO Volunteer Appreciation Mtg

6:49 PM call to order.

No agenda to approve-no agenda was prepared. The following items were presented for discussion.

\*In the by-laws it states that meetings are held on Mondays, we want to change to have on regular basis, but not defined by date or time.

\*Valentin has a funding request, so not voting on it tonight but can discuss. A vote can be held in September, or called in summer if necessary.

\*Also Amy's art fund.

\*Julie Elias presented a request for help at the GAI during Deutsche Tage, esp on Sunday. 11-2 and 2-5. 11:15 will have dancers present. Lawn bowling, physical activity type games. Julie also presented the Warrior Dash. Like a 5k but with altering territories, mud, water, etc. July 24 and 25, if we get a 25 people team GAI and TCGIS will split the \$1000 prize. Afton Alps. Check it out online. Watch for Elternbrief and yahoo groups for more info.

All persons present went around the room and introduced themselves, who their children are and what their favorite thing about TCGIS is.

7:21 p.m. funding request. Britta moved and Sue W seconded to approve the \$21.49 for Uli Koester and \$39.06 for Amy Lenburg. Michelle cautioned us to be prudent in approving overspending. As a PTO we are still working the kinks out of the system to better fit to address funds.

7:25 p.m. Valentin presented future funding request. He noted that we have many creative students at school as well as a need to have a TCGIS presence at public events. The dance group performed not only at Festival of Nations, but also requests were made to perform at Glockenspiel, and other events. He would like to avoid requesting parents to pay for the afterschool expense, but would like to offer it as a free activity. Just as the strings group is offered free to students (due to parent volunteers). It is a very effective recruiting strategy. Children dancing in costumes attract attention at the various events they are at. If it were offered for free, parents could be asked to provide costumes and transportation. Valentin proposes to offer it to 4<sup>th</sup> grade and up. There were 21 children involved. He believes dancing is a great key to culture. Dance has a historical and athletic value in addition to the art value. Frau Breithaupt mentioned the huge time commitment (recess practices), and that it is a great service to the broader school community. It would be great if the practices could be funded by the PTO as better for both the students and the teachers. German culture and music is explicit in the dance. A fabulous PR opportunity. And recruitment opportunity. If there were up to twenty kids Valentin could do it on his own (\$1000) for the year. \$750 if an assistant were needed. Leslie wondered if a greater monetary request would be more appropriate. A comment was made that volunteer teachers earn \$10/child/session at typical afterschool activities. The vision of traveling is big. Ursula asked also about

the strings group and the support that was needed there as well. Is there a need instead for a scholarship fund and support for out of school hours activities, such as those above, and or for example yearbook. The broader vision is to grow the strings group into an orchestra/band. Krista offered her support. Annika feels providing support for the arts program to blossom is vital, wants to carefully think through the development of a structure that will support these ideas. The idea of improving the afterschool offerings is a strong one. Kim spoke to the budget issues. The idea of a scholarship was proposed. There is strong reluctance for this idea because it is unfair. The vision is that this dance group will be a welcoming school group open to all. Just as a school band would be open to all. Funding is likely available according to Molly. We will come back to this in a future meeting, perhaps called by Kari in August.

No follow up on refrigerator.

Leslie moved to change September meeting. Molly seconded. Moved unanimously.

Leslie on our behalf collectively thanked Gina for being the PTO president. People brought together, collective leadership. Passing baton. Heavy lifting passed on to Kari. Masterful job, Thank you! Applause.

Gina tearfully thanked everyone.

If you have photos from a MB event, send to Michelle.

Kari moved, Heidi seconded. So moved. Meeting adjourned.