

TCGIS PTO Meeting Minutes **April 6, 2010**

Attendees: Gina Vader, Molly McBeath, Danielle Sanders, Kari Swedberg, Lisa Anthony Thomas, Rebecca Johnson, April Pearson, Nicole Grenz, Michelle (Nellis) Wallace, Kami Blackwell Kinney, Britta Walker, Leslie Watson, Kim Kompel, Chris Weimholt, Sue Burke Westacott, Heidi Zimmermann, Michelle Sheire, Liane Gale, Julie Elias, Cornelia Fritsche.

Location: TCGIS

The meeting was called to order by PTO president Leslie Watson.

Approval of Agenda. With the amendment to discuss the clothing sale, the agenda was unanimously approved.

Approval of March Minutes. With the clarification that teacher classroom money is not to be used for Amity gifts and that that decision was made during the March meeting, Kim Kompel made the motion to approve the amended minutes, Gina Vader seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report. All direct donation money from Maskenball has been turned over to the school; with that, the current PTO financial balance is over \$23,000. Treasurer Molly McBeath has started a draft budget for next year, with an item-by-item list of what the PTO actually made and spent this year. Questions addressed how much to increase the event facility (carryover) fund and whether or not to increase the amount paid to teachers in the fall. Pros are that the teachers would know how much they have to spend; a con is that this is a substantial amount of our funds to tie up early in the academic year. The group discussed moving the funds Chris Weimholt generated at the first Grand Marais weekend from GIEF to the PTO account. There were no objections to moving this money (\$365) and putting it in a special fund for Chris Weimholt to disburse, probably to benefit music programs.

School Board Report. A proposed budget was reviewed by the school board. The board is considering a 5% cut in funding because it is not known when the 17% may be returned. This results in a large financial hole, since the FLAP grant is ending also. The Finance committee was proposing QComp (merit-based pay), which could get state funding, eliminating the music program, and reducing Sports and Art by 50%. The Amity program will remain as is with renegotiation with the Amity Institute. The school is in the process of renegotiating the building lease. The Board asked that QComp to be removed from the budget, and to put Art and Sports back to current levels, and asked the Finance Committee to look at the numbers again. The Board will approve the budget in May. Board member Juergen Konczak is currently working with the German government to possibly fund one or two teaching positions for 2011-12. The board made changes to bylaws based on recommendations of the governance committee that took into account new charter school laws. An additional change in the bylaws was that board elections will not be tied anymore to an annual meeting. Instead, TCGIS will have an election day; this year it will be May 20. Voting still can be done by proxy and all parents can now vote, instead of one vote per family. The board also approved a modified hiring policy, a full-time teacher for fourth grade was hired for next school year, the 2010/2011 calendar was approved, the middle school curriculum (5th to 8th) was reviewed. A closed session with director evaluation followed.

Requests for Support

Library. Liane Gale provided a summary of the current status of the Library and its committee and volunteers with the departure of Holly Wiste from the school, who previously managed more or less

single-handedly the library. In the past, some consumables needed for the library have been provided by volunteers, as the school has no budget for the library. A need therefore is to generate funds to purchase consumables and an account where funds may be held and disbursed from. Kim Kompel moved that the PTO will act as a fiscal agent for the library, Sue Burke Westacott seconded and all approved.

Playground. Leslie Watson is currently working on a grant proposal that would improve the playground. The grant requires a matching grant. Leslie Watson asked whether it would be possible to identify the \$2,000 that had been set aside for an architect for a previous playground plan, as potential source for the matching grant. Molly McBeath put forward a motion to identify the \$2,000 as a source for the matching grant, Gina Vader seconded and all approved.

2009/2010 Work Plan. Gina Vader presented plans for the Spring Plant Sale that will include annuals and donated perennials. To hold the sale on School Board election day was proposed. At the same day, the library's Used Book Sale and a Strudel sale could take place. A number of volunteers were identified to help and to organize (Kami Blackwell Kinney, Kari Swedberg, Lisa Anthony Thomas, Rebecca Johnson, Heidi Zimmermann, Gina Vader, Linda Michel, Leslie Watson). Leslie Watson mentioned that Silke Moeller will not continue with the clothing sale past this year. A volunteer is needed to replace Silke Moeller. Sue Burke Westacott introduced the concept of bulk school supply purchase. She has explored some potential sources. A discussion ensued about supply lists and the need for classroom inventories. Danielle Sanders mentioned that she will get a discount from office supply stores and that the order could be placed at any time. Leslie Watson suggested to focus this year on common supplies, like hand sanitizers, paper towels and copy paper. Britta Walker volunteered to meet with administration and teachers for initial communication. Julie Elias of the GAI talked about Familienfest, which will take place at the GAI August 22 from 2 – 5 pm. The PTO expressed interest in having an increased presence at Familienfest. Some ideas how the PTO could contribute to Familienfest were discussed, e.g. face painting, and having a PTO table.

2010-2011 Planning.

Officer Election. An application form is now available. One candidate for each officer positions has so far been identified: President: Gina Vader, Vice-President: Rebecca Johnson, Treasurer: Molly McBeath, Secretary: Liane Gale, Historian: Michelle Sheire.

Maskenball. Rebecca Johnson submitted a written debriefing document. She mentioned some of the changes that will be implemented in Maskenball 2011, i.e. auction will be completely online (2-3 weeks), so that the Maskenball itself will just be a party, including some raffles, e.g. head-or-tails, teacher raffle. Also, the tasks for Maskenball will be divided into smaller jobs that will be identified by hours.

Creation of an all school calendar. Gina Vader introduced her idea of generating an inclusive calendar that would include the school schedule and pertinent activities at the TCGIS, the TCGIS PTO and the GAI. She has communicated this idea and has gotten the go-ahead from the director Annika Fjelstad and Julie Elias (GAI). She also has talked to Linda Michel and Michelle Sheire about designs. The goal would be to have the calendar available for the Open House in August. Gina Vader calculated that we would need about 200 calendars at an anticipated cost of \$3/calendar. A motion was made by Rebecca Johnson to authorize up to \$750 to design and produce a calendar with the understanding that financial support will also be sought from other sources, such as GAI and donations from parents to offset the costs. Sue Burke Westacott and Kari Swedberg seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Summer meeting schedule. The first Monday in August was suggested for a summer meeting. A date will be proposed by next meeting.

Kim Kompel moved to adjourn, Rebecca Johnson seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Prepared by Liane Gale, PTO Secretary