

## **TCGIS PTO Meeting Minutes May 3, 2010**

**Attendees:** Britta Walker, Heidi Zimmermann, Renee Moelders, Gina Vader, Sue Burke Westacott, Nicole Grenz, Molly McBeath, Eric Hauth Schmid, Kim Kompel, Leslie Watson, Lisa Friedman, April Pearson, Michael Dorneich, Rebecca Johnson, Michelle Sheire, Liane Gale, Anita Ratwik, Ursula Lentz, Susanne Grimm, Kelly Huxmann, Michelle (Nellis) Wallace, Kari Swedberg, Chris Weimholt.

### **Location: TCGIS**

The meeting was called to order by PTO president Leslie Watson at 6:35 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda.** With the amendment to discuss a funding request from Ursula Hargens, Molly McBeath motioned and Gina Vader seconded to approve the amended agenda. The amended agenda was unanimously approved.

**Approval of April Minutes.** Lisa Friedman moved and Nicole Grenz seconded to approve the April minutes.

**Treasurers Report.** The current checking account has \$22,000, not including spring fundraisers,

**School Board Report.** Highlights from the last TCGIS Board meeting (4/27/10) were presented by board member Kim Kompel. The TCGIS budget for the 2010/2011 school year was approved. It does not contain any significant budget cuts, although music is currently not in the budget. TCGIS director Annika Fjelstad is currently exploring alternatives to a regular music program. A school development plan was submitted to the German government, which, if approved, could fund one or two teacher positions. The Board also conditionally approved a sick leave pool for employees and the hiring of three new teachers. No salary increases were included in the budget, but equity adjustments for longer-term teachers will be made. Board elections will take place on May 20<sup>th</sup> to replace Rebecca Hauth Schmid, Gretchen Nessel and Juergen Konczak, who will rotate off.

**Introduction of Prospective School Board Members.** Candidates were given the opportunity to introduce themselves. Eric Hauth Schmid, Lisa Friedman, Anita Redwig, Ursula Lentz and Renee Moelders were in attendance and introduced themselves and their agenda and vision for TCGIS. The sixth candidate, Clinton Gerner, was not able to participate.

### **Upcoming Events.**

**May 15 Event.** Eric Hauth Schmidt gave a preview of the TCGIS/GAI/GACC event that will include activities at TCGIS, including the dedication of the new Science Lab and a gathering at the GAI. The purpose is to bring the different organizations together to establish a community.

**Plant/Strudel/Book Sale.** On May 20, coinciding with the Board Election Day, a Used Book, Strudel and Plant Sale and a Plant Swap will take place as fundraising activities. Volunteers are still needed. Leslie Watson also asked for volunteers for "Feed my Starving Children" food packing session that will take place May 4 between 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. in Eagan.

**Requests for Funding.** Ursula Hargens was previously granted expense reimbursement for up to \$500 for art display boards. The actual cost was \$566. Britta Walker motioned, Renee Moelders seconded, to grant the request of Ursula Hargens to receive a additional refund for the additional \$66.

**2010-2011 PTO Board Elections.** A slate was presented by President Leslie Watson, after a request for additional nominations from the floor did not yield any further candidates: Molly McBeath as Treasurer (Nicole Grenz seconded the nomination), Liane Gale as Secretary (Gina Vader seconded the nomination), Michelle Sheire as Historian (Britta Walker seconded the nomination), Rebecca Johnson as Vice-President (Britta Walker seconded the nomination), Gina Vader as President (Liane Gale seconded the nomination). Leslie Watson made the motion to approve the slate, Heidi Zimmermann seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

**2010-2011 Planning.** “Familienfest” will take place at the GAI on August 22, 2010. In the past, this back-to-school family event has been organized by GAI. TCGIS parent and GAI volunteer coordinator Julie Elias is very involved in the event. This year, the PTO will actively participate this event, though the extent of the PTO involvement still needs to be determined. The PTO “theme” for the next school year will be the Greening of TCGIS. This theme will be incorporated into PTO activities and committee work.

**Budget Discussion.** Discussed were the establishment and size of a cash reserve fund. It was also agreed that details on a cash reserve fund should be spelled out in a policy. Funds of \$300 will be available for fall for all classroom teachers, specialists, and the recess supervisor. A classroom fund still needs to be established for the Spanish teacher. A short discussion ensued on how to communicate with teachers about PTO funds available to them. In the 2010-2011 budget, the classroom fund will be a one-time allocation at the beginning of the year, rather than a separate fall and spring allocation. However, if teachers have additional needs they may request funding from the PTO’s general funds. Unspent money from individual classroom funds will be made available to TCGIS at the end of the school year for office supplies. This year’s general fund has not been tapped extensively, with \$3,500 left. With an anticipated increase in general fund requests next year, expanded funding guidelines for need to be established to help set priorities and aid decision-making.

Gina Vader moved to approve the amended draft budget, Rebecca Johnson seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Bylaw Amendments.** A draft of suggested changes to TCGIS PTO Bylaws was attached with other meeting materials prior to the meeting. Action on the proposed bylaw revisions will be taken at the June meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

*Prepared by Liane Gale, PTO Secretary.*