

TCGIS PTO Meeting Minutes – September 6, 2011

In attendance:

Kari Swedberg (president), Lisa Antony-Thomas (vice president), Danielle Sanders (treasurer), Heidi Zimmermann (archivist), Michelle Sheire (secretary), Colin Kreuziger, Matt McKinney, Sue Westacott, Matt Nordeen, Nancy Nordeen, Jesse Zibble, Elvira Houben-Schlag, Leslie Weston, Britta Walker, Mary-Fred Watkins, Tom Farrell, Marcus Sheire, Ben Wright, Sara Wright, Tim Heckel, Rob Hennelly, Kelly Huxmann, Marilee Tuite, Amy Eian, Steve Spencer, Ilona Lange, Erin Westenberg, Guido Westenberg, Tom Scholtens, Sara Scholtens, Cindy Miller, Nicole Grenz, Kami Blackwell Kinney, Kelly Laudon, Lisa Friedman, Julie Elias, Amy Davis, Gregor Adriany, Kate, Olson, Annika Fjelstad, Rebecca Johnson, Bill Stuber, Anita Ratwik, Mickey Jurewicz-Gruneheid, Karin Spencer, Molly McBeath, Kimberly Kompel, Renee Moelders, Veronica Sohn, Annegret Theis, Dylan Ebner, Sarah Ebner

Meeting called to order at: 6:45 PM

New Business

- After-school programs – Amy Davis
- Update on Sustainability Council

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Rebecca Johnson, seconded by Leslie Watson to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Approval of August Minutes

Moved by Lisa Friedman, seconded by Kate Olson to approve the June meeting minutes. Motion carried.

President's Report

Kari introduced Info Night and let everyone know that they will have the opportunity to learn about committees and volunteer opportunities. Auflauf is coming up on October 14. This year there will be a "non-judgmental" dessert buffet also. Tickets will be on sale soon.

Treasurer's Report

Dani reported that so far \$244 of income from calendars, \$23 from t-shirts sales (leftover T-shirts from the 2010-2011 school year were sold at Familienfest), and \$207 in teacher reimbursements have been paid out.

Committee Reports

Classroom Support Committee --Karin Spencer reported that the committee is recruiting Eltern Contacts to serve as a liaison between teacher and parents, point person for teacher and a resource, paired with someone to split responsibility,

Parent Outreach Committee – Mickey Jurewicz-Gruneheid reported that the *New Parent Field Guide* was completed and sent to new parents and encouraged veteran parents to check it out too. It is available on the PTO website.

Fundraising – Kate Olson reported that Chinook Books are now on sale and encouraged parents to volunteer for Maskenball, the PTO's biggest fundraiser of the year. The committee's goal has been and continues to be not to over-burden parents with fundraisers.

Education Support – Julie Elias reported that school tours for prospective families will take place every Thursday. Those interested can sign-up online. The committee could especially use native German speakers to give tours. There will be no more than four families per tour.

School Board Report

Marcus Sheire reported that at the last board meeting the following was discussed:

- The hiring front office staff – now fully staffed with addition of lunch coordinator
- MCA's – results delayed and are expected by the end of September for sure
- Results of the parent survey – consistently good feedback on the school
- Review of the annual report – will be available in a couple of weeks

After-school Activities

Teacher Amy Davis reported that after-school activities will now be run by the school. In the past, Herr Stephenson coordinated on his own time. A list of activities will be out soon.

Update from the Sustainability Council

Amy Eian reported that the purpose of the Sustainability Council is to coordinate efforts to support the sustainability at the school. To that end, TCGIS joined Eco-Schools (for more information, <http://www.eco-schools.org/>), and will follow their suggested ways to organize:

School Grounds	Green Hour	Consumption & Waste
Energy	Water	Transportation
Climate Change	Global Dimensions	

The council also added nutrition and toxicity as areas of focus. If interested helping with these efforts, contact Amy. There will be a meeting on Monday, 9/19 at 6 PM at the school. The council is a school committee and will work with teachers, staff, and students.

Family Volunteering Theme

This year's PTO theme is Family Volunteering and Community Service. We know that many TCGIS parents volunteer their time at the school and other places and we'd like to help expand that by offering ways to get families involved and offering simple and quick ways to participate in community service. To do that, we have speakers, collections to benefit local non-profits, etc. The October PTO meeting will feature a speaker on family volunteerism and how to get children involved. We are looking for parents interested in organizing a collection and/or to coordinate a family volunteer activity.

Moved by Lisa Friedman, seconded Leslie Watson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Adjourn Time: 7:04 PM