

Mason Rice PTO Board Minutes

10/03/2011

Attendees: Frieda Dweck, Laura Holt, Martha Cleveland, Alicia Bowman, Rhanna Kidwell, Jo Ann Mead, Laura McTaggart, Matt Whitney, Susan Kern, Jordana Alford, Liz Blumberg, Rachel Segall, Maureen Oates, Jen Dirga, Kim Thurmond, Courtney Cole, May Chiu, Sunwoo Kahng, Julia Hamilton

Financials: - Carol Ann Delmonico

- o If you are responsible for a program please check the General Ledger to be sure that the entries look right for your program
- o Review of last year's financials - large check for playground is due this month.
 - \$7000 for technology, \$1000 green team
- o Net Income - \$30,000 for 2011 - \$5,000 more surplus than we had expected.
- o \$30,602 carries over to the balance sheet - will pay large playground check this month.

2012:

- o Dues - so far ~ \$30,000.
- o Next year - additional budget for Creative Arts and Sciences - for next year's budget - (Ruby Bridges).

Book Fair - Jo Ann Mead

- o New Vendor -We have a new vendor for the book fair this year scheduled for Nov 7 - 10. We have changed from Scholastic to Better Bookfair. We learned from PTO council that many of the schools were moving to this vendor as they do not have as much marketing materials. In the past, with Scholastic we were able to use our credits to even out the classroom wish-lists for the teachers. This year Better Bookfairs does not do this. Propose that each teacher can pick 5 - 10 books and if one is full will direct you to another teacher.
- o Thursday night new family event - No café - keep flow of traffic near books and very focused on reading and love of books. We will have PJ party read-aloud which will include: Storytelling in 3 different locations -Spooky, funny

and classic tales. Can come in PJ's sit and listen to stories. We will serve milk and cookies. Volunteers to bake cookies, get milk boxes. We will have a Bulletin board "what was your favorite book" - with responses from the teachers.

Social Action Initiatives Maureen Oates

- Update on the Initiatives for this year: The goal is to have a full year planned and families can then select the activities they want to participate in.
- Planned Initiatives:
 - o Family Table October 16th - List to put together groceries for a family and deliver to them.
 - o Maybe cradles to crayons toy drive after the holidays.
 - o Holiday Sing a long at Nursing Home.

Year -End Survey Review - Maureen Oates

- Feedback - To better understand the PTO agenda for the year as well as the different initiatives and to help engage more participation from the MR community. Feedback is that the Communication was overwhelming, so we are scaling back our requests this year.
- We are looking for feedback on volunteering - on the schedule, the volunteer experience itself. Many want to volunteer but don't want to be bogged down in meetings. For this year the goal is to do better with the programs that we have and not try to take on more initiatives.

Actions: MR.org clear calendar - notes to biweekly instead of every week.

Classroom/ Bulk Supplies- May

- Sunwoo proposed that the PTO allocate \$2000 to purchase bulk supplies likepaper towels and surface wipes for the classrooms.
- There are three reasons for the proposal
 1. This would eliminate the need for teachers to ask parents, and therefore address on of the concerns that was brought up in the PTO survey

2. The PTO would provide approved, green supplies (apparently Clorox wipes are actually prohibited for classroom use, but that's what a lot of teachers get from parent donations)
 3. It's cheaper to buy in bulk
- The board decided to NOT vot on this right now - there isn't enough support among board members to pass it. Concerns included:
 1. \$2000 seems like a lot of money for these supplies
 2. Some believed that parents really don't mind providing these supplies to teachers - it's an easy was to help and it's totally optional.
 - It was noted that \$500 of this money was actually already spent over the summer, by a parent who found a good deal on recycled paper towels and bought them. This parent understood that the funds hadn't been (and might not be) approved and is willing to make this a donation to the school if the board decides against funding this.

Fundraiser re-assessment and dues review

- This was tabled for discussion at a future meeting because we want a really robust discussion
- Most board members felt we should have a plan / prioritize for things this extra dues income should fund...we can definitely raise less money in fundraisers this year because of the dues income, but which fundraisers should we eliminate? These are big decisions and we want to get lots of input.