

PTO General Meeting Minutes, March 10, 2015

Attendees: Jill Goodrich, Curt Frueh, Anna Moraglia, Kathy Foushee, Diane Quinn, Debbie Webber, Jodie Lowe, Maggie Barker, Heathir Speet, Ginger Salmon, Carter Herndon, Dianna Byers, Andrew Lightsey, Cyndi Klein

Anna - We are in the middle of MAP testing now, April will be dibels. And then we have EOGS in May. We also have our Magnet Schools of America visit on Thursday morning. They will spend the morning going into classrooms and talking to teachers, students and administration. The visit may help CMS apply for grants. They are evaluating the efficacy of magnets in general. We should get feedback sometime in April. They are also looking at standards, which we have from Maria Montessori - our Montessori standards exceed common core.

Grade level reports - Maggie - we are gearing up for open house, we are talking about it at our meeting tomorrow and will let PTO know what help we need. Conferences are so critical to remind us of why we are doing what we do, thank you for the funding. There will be breakouts at open house, there are many new families who don't know much about Montessori. Open house is the last Thurs of April at 10am. People seem to be escaping their home school through the magnet lottery, so may not know much about any magnet they get in to. Our school is very different/alternative from traditional settings, mixed ages, teachers for multiple years, etc. - we have to communicate that and also tell them what we expect from the parents/families.

Diane - we have made the children a central focus of our meetings. Things are starting to kick in for the 1st graders as they blossom.

Curt - our 6th grade DC field trip starts Monday morning. We will visit the International Spy Museum, Sue Audino's cousin is the director. I've used google maps to map out transportation and restaurants. There will be 6 students and 2 adults, Ms. Kim will go with us. Ms. Cecilia is going to a conference on Thurs and Fri. We will have a meeting in April with PTO to discuss our fundraising efforts.

Funding document - are there any questions - Ms. Kathy, we would like to be called Specialist teachers, and would like the same amount of funding as classroom teachers. Heathir - we had residual money last year that we were able to use to to fund conferences, so we will need to figure out a way to raise additional funds to continue to have money to cover conferences. This budget goes through June, and we will reevaluate then for next year. If you have needs above and beyond what's available, please let us know, we will do our best to fund it. Ms. Candace's drummers had an impact on Curt's class, because it tied into a book they were reading. She spent additional time with them and had the drummers tailor their performance as well. This is a fluid document, just to let everyone know what money we have and where it goes - it allows us all to be on the same page funding wise.

Debbie - going forward I think we need teacher/staff representation at the executive board meetings to have their input. Heathir - please reach out at grade level meetings to find out if there are any teachers who are willing to attend.

Diane - I have a hard time planning ahead with a detailed spending plan. Heathir - we are not asking for a spending plan for invest dollars, just for conferences. The only preplanning we're looking for is if you need a flight or will drive, the cost of the conference, etc. The next executive

meeting is scheduled for Easter, so we will have to reschedule, Heathir will let everyone know the new date. The funding document was approved, it will be available on the website.

Yearbooks - PTO was talking about offering a yearbook to each class, so we'd like to know who's interested in having one. If you can ask your grade level teachers and let Dianna know who would like one, we will buy those for you. Not all of the teachers wanted one when we asked in the past, so knowing the number who do will help us save paper. The deadline to order is March 13th, so please let us know this week. And please remind your families that the deadline is coming up as well.

Conferences - Primary's conference rollover was approved, so you will be able to use the money next year. We may have more or less to offer next year, so please be aware. Rollovers are given based on exception. We want the money to be used in a beneficial way, not just for people to go because they have the money and it's their turn. The conference request forms are on the website, please encourage teachers to fill that out if they have conference plans.

Traffic - we've spent a lot of time on this at our executive meetings. we want to support whatever solution staff proposes. The latest big issue is that when people are late in the mornings, the parents drop kids off to run to the learning cottages. Ms. Tricia then has to turn them back but the parents are gone, so they go to the office. Another issue is when walkers park their car by the school and then walk their children to school. We can revisit in August.

Portal websites - the portal sites are available, it's basic information - your bio, photo, when you have specials, etc. It will not need to be updated. It will help in August when parents get letters and can visit their teacher's page for general information. Heathir and Jodie have worked really hard to get our website running and full of information, so please encourage teachers to complete that portal form so we can have that information available for all classrooms. On that page you can link to your own personal website, it does not replace that, it is just informational. Heathir is also building a teacher board for the lobby, we would like to make it very editable so that we can add and remove as needed.

Jodie - For the e-bulletin, I need content by Tuesday at 5pm, and I need the blurb you would like, not just a website link. Montessori Mornings deadline is this Thurs (March 12).

Heathir - the newsletter went out last week, we had talked about printing one out for each classroom. Would teachers like that? Probably not for Primary. Dianne prints one for her own class - so maybe each class can print their own. It is also available online.

Montessori Marathon - we are having a slow start with getting volunteers to sign up. It will go out again in the e-bulletin. Ginger will go around to classrooms and pick t-shirt sizes for those students who have not selected one on Wednesday morning. The deadline for t-shirt orders is today (March 10), adults and students. We added Park Road Montessori to the logo which says "Montessori Marathon."

International Spring Picnic April 23rd - Priti is reaching out to families to see who would like to have a table. If you know a family with international heritage in your class and would like to ask them to participate please let us know. All of the tables will get a \$25 stipend to help support the event. We will sell spirit wear at the event. The upper el showcase is also that day, likely the

hour before the picnic starts, Heathir will check with Ms. Candace. We were thinking of inviting Sedgefield Middle School over.

Jill - Montessori Advisory group is proposing on the high school later this month. A lot of parents are working very hard on this effort.