

Park Road Montessori

PTO Meeting Minutes

10/12/2016

8:00 am

Media Center

Attendees:

Toni Emehel, *President*

Maury Finger, *Vice President*

Michelle Gonzalez-Vigil, *Co-Secretary*

Kyle Kauffman, *Treasurer*

Emily Meeker, *Fundraising Coordinator*

Karen Delozier, *Social/Community Coordinator*

Martha Carpenter, *Interim Principal*

Debbie Webber, *Assistant Principal*

Curt Frueh, *Upper EL*

Karen Fletcher, *Lower EL*

Carey Montgomery, *Lower EL*

Andrew Lightsey, *Lower EL*

Dana Hykes- *parent*

Jon Bontrager-*parent/Montessori Mornings*

Ginger Salmon-*parent/former PTO President*

Cindy Elliott

Note taker: Michelle Gonzalez-Vigil

Absent:

Co-Secretary- *Melissa Merritt*

Communications Coordinator- *Jodie Lowe*

Minutes

Agenda item: President's Call to Order

Presenter: Toni Emehel

Agenda item: Financial Update

Presenter: Kyle Kauffman

Discussion:

Treasurer provides an update on financial status based on the most current fundraising information. It is noted that the line item for the sculpture (\$9,000 credit) was not accurately reflected yet, spreadsheets will be updated to reflect going forward. PTO dues fundraising ended at \$100 short of the target. Next the teacher's list of invest in your child supplements is reviewed. The invest in your child matching contribution report is still outstanding. The contribution link may still be active, because money has come in after Friday's deadline. Based on the current numbers we have, the invest in your child funds appear to be \$400 less per teacher compared to last year. However, we are premature in making any definitive decisions on likely distributions at this time.

The question is raised if we can confirm who contributed so that teachers may write thank you notes. Due to the complications of pulling name information from checks, and the suggestion that it may be more persuasive to send a thank you note to all parents, it is recommended that teachers send a blanket thank you note to parents for their invest in your child contributions.

The question is raised of why we increased the invest in your child goal and whether the current “shortfall” is defined as a shortfall based on last year’s goal, or based on a goal that was increased over last year’s goal. Last year’s fundraising exceeded the goal.

Last year all teachers got the same amount, whether they were classroom teachers, or special area teachers. This may be a consideration going forward.

Instead of \$1,700 per teacher they may get \$1,300. How the shortfall will impact any particular program depends on how the teachers choose to prioritize their spending. Each teacher makes the spending choices individually.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Kyle will confirm the final Invest with your child numbers	Kyle	TBD

Agenda item: Teacher Conferences **Presenter:** Toni Emehel

Discussion:

President requests clarification regarding who will be in charge of arranging the teacher conferences this year to ensure that the reservations are made in the most advantageous way possible. We would like to ensure that group discounts are leveraged when available and other cost saving measures are being taken advantage of. Jennifer Moore was the contact last year. Curt will confirm with her if she will continue to coordinate the effort this year. It is suggested that we can get the best value for our money by confirming travel decisions from teachers as early as possible because travel expenses vary greatly based on destinations ranging from San Diego to local conferences. It is also important to confirm which teachers have a turn to travel this year based on the rotation.

Agenda item: Concerned Email from a Parent to Ann Clark **Presenter:** Toni Emehel

Discussion:

President asked teachers (1) if students have been negatively affected by Anna’s suspension and (2) are there any concerns with morale among the teachers that the PTO may be able to assist with by way of looking into resources or consultants to come in. All grade level representatives confirmed that the students have not been impacted, nor have the teachers. President then asked “How can the PTO best support teachers and students during this time?”. Curt (Upper EI rep) explained that the core concern...An email has been received from a concerned parent who feels that there is a lack of transparency regarding what is happening with the CMS personnel investigation into Anna Moraglia. It is important that we come up with a collaborative response and ensure that we do not encourage gossip. Some parents have voiced concerns to a couple of board members. Some board members feel that ignoring them is likely to make the problem worse.

The core concern is that Anna had championed Montessori education credentials for 100% of staff (versus a majority of greater than 50%), among various other goals that exceed what CMS requires in order to define a school as Montessori. She helped to shape our definition of “authentic Montessori”. The concern is that without a champion for these goals, they will slip. Thus, Curt suggested that the PTO can be helpful by helping to educate upper level CMS officials on the characteristics that are distinct to PRM in the event there is a permanent change in leadership as a result of the pending investigation

The question is raised if higher level administration really understands the school’s definition of “authentic Montessori” and that we hold ourselves to different standards than the CMS basic definition of Montessori. Additionally the school improvement plan should encompass these requirements and state our goal that staff are 100% certified among other unique requirements. It is not a responsibility of the PTO to address parents regarding CMS personnel issues. Thus, any responsive statement made by the PTO should reiterate the purpose of the PTO in accordance with our bylaws. We can refer parents to CMS regarding personnel issues and let any statements regarding CMS policy come through a statement written by Martha, PRM interim principal or Tara Sullivan, Area Superintendent.

Conclusions:

It is agreed that we will take a two pronged approach:

- 1- Someone from CMS or Martha should also address the issue and reassure parents that nothing will be compromised at the school level and that the goals that are encompassed in our Philosophy Statement are being upheld at the teacher and administrative level
- 2- Statement from Tara Lynn Sullivan in our email bulletin with her email address and her invitation to accept parent inquiries directly

All parent questions and concerns regarding the embezzlement investigation and/or personnel matters concerning Anna are to be directed to Tara. It is also suggested that we may include some of the defining statements and our philosophy in the video that is being created for the 25th anniversary celebration.

A statement will be issued by the President reiterating the purpose of the PTO and reaffirming the PTO's commitment to support PRM students, parents, and administrating in preserving the distinct Montessori culture that the school has worked so hard to achieve. The statement will also mention the board's recent review of its financial management practices and relevant changes that have been made to bring such practices in alignment with CMS policy.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Draft communication from PTO addressing concerns	Toni Emehel	TBD
✓ Communication from Martha or Tara to be placed in the bulletin	Tara, Martha	TBD
✓ Invitation from Tara for parent feedback/concerns		

Agenda item: Driveway Pavers for Carpool **Presenter:** Maury Finger

Discussion:

Maury has priced driveway pavers at \$180 to add a 5th parking area for drop off and pick up in carpool. The area is currently muddy and messy. Martha says that she will continue to investigate the situation. She is currently working on several school improvement projects, including this one, as well as potentially extending an awning into the carpool area. There is a concern that whatever is done needs to be ADA compliant.

Action Items

- ✓ Martha will continue to keep us informed of the status of this request

Agenda item: Move to adjourn **Presenter:** Toni Emehel

Discussion:

The meeting is adjourned at 9:05 am.

Other Information

Next Meeting:

Wednesday December 14, 2016 PTO Meeting 8:00 AM @ PRM Media Center

Thursday December 15, 2016 PTO General Meeting