

Rudder Meeting Minutes February 16, 2016

Members Present: Kim Symon, Kelly Crantford, Joie Linser, Jennifer Garcia, Jana Stark, Gina Brenner, Krystan Krailler, Nickole Pope- George, Sarah Gilchrist, Sarah Lord,

Others Present: Tara Brock, Melissa Volck, Juliette Miller, Gina Wallace, Jackie Roberto, Christy Burch, Joe Busterna, Grace Shivers, Gayle McLaughlin

Meeting Called to Order at 7:15pm
Welcome - Speaker cards are available

Guests from City Gospel Mission, Parkside Christian Church & Cincinnati Ballet-
Grace Shivers & Gayle McLaughlin

Ballet Princess Program – 15 sites throughout the city. Students who cannot afford dance lessons can be given that opportunity. Free lessons Mondays 7-8:30 at Parkside Christian Church, free for girls 1st-6th grade. Grace is the teacher. Would like to open a section for 3-year-olds through Kindergarten age (teacher Noel). Leotard, tights & shoes will be needed, Diana's Dance Wear will offer a discount to bring total costs for these items down to \$25-\$30. They plan to continue the program through the summer with the exception of a few weeks in June. Google "City Gospel Mission – Ballet Princess Program" for more information

Announcements: Read-a-thon ends this Friday

Principal's Report: Sarah Lord

- Family Literacy Night was great – thanks to all the volunteers
- Reading buddies has been very successful between kindergarteners and 6th graders
- 100th Day Canned Food Drive was very successful
- Basketball camp is going well
- Public School Walk-In is tomorrow morning to show support for our public schools
- Two families have experienced suicide in the district – Annie Tate (school psychologist) and some teachers are working on suicide prevention
- "Eagles Nest" newsletter came home for the first time today. This will be electronic in the future
- Chris Vockell is working with a graphic designer on a new logo for the Sands athletic teams
- Assistant superintendent came to start planning for the addition of all day preschool next year, discussion followed...

LSDMC: No report

ILT: Sarah Lord

- A parent survey is being distributed to continue our discussion about branding (What is the Sands experience?)
- Third Grade Reading Guarantee – only 42% of 3rd graders passed this test in December but we are working on some helpful strategies for testing online

Committee Reports

Business Manager, Jennifer Garcia & President, Gina Brenner –

- Went back to the original numbers from the beginning of the school year for the auction
- The attached budget is from last Tuesday's budget meeting
- Read-a-thon, community events, Sands Box & Silent Auction (being kept at \$6,000)

- Budget approved at the beginning of the year is not changing, just changing to a “zero sum” status
- Conversation about which of these event will be kept for next year
- Field Trip Buses – In the past, SMPO paid CPS to fund an account for each classroom to have access to a field trip bus for the current school year. Each year the cost for a field trip bus increases, and SMPO was under the assumption that we still had funds available at the beginning of the year. However, the District recently concluded their conversion to a new accounting system, which took roughly over a year to complete. In the process of the conversion, the funds allocated to SMPO field trip buses were used causing a deficit in this account. SMPO Business Manager and our Sands Administration have worked with our school accountant and have found a solution around paying the District directly, and now SMPO pays these funds directly into each Room Account (funds go to the Classroom Account #, or Room # - and not the teacher directly). This new payment method will ensure that these funds will be better maintained and recorded for usage, and will remain safe from District’s accounting practices. SMPO is currently over budget by \$1,607 on this line item because our beginning budget was based on numbers we believed were accurate from our prior year’s spending and based on what we believed we would be spending for this current school year.
- Gina Brenner would like to look at budget line items we have not currently spent to take care of this deficit. Is it possible to have a deficit at the end of the school year?
- Jen Garcia & Kelly Crantford will talk to Ilka Lenox to come up with the best plan
- Kelly Crantford & Heather Gerker – what is the process for the \$5,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund? A “Meritorious Application” will go out to all of the teachers and they will have two weeks to submit this application to Kelly Crantford’s attention (by March 4th). Teacher applications will be sent anonymously to all voting Rudder members. Rudder members will rank 0-10- one page per request with rankings. Discussion followed - Are we going to consider this binding or a suggestion? Do we want to know how much they are spending? Jen Garcia says they need to be as specific as possible (price from the website - printed out screenshot, invoice, quote, shipping & handling, etc.)
- Jen Garcia -Two requests are on the table from teachers
 - Ms. Ramos is requesting funds for a bookshelf. This request was tabled because Rudder will vote on whether to purchase this bookshelf from the single expenditure of funds.
 - Erin Dean wants to go to Queen City Clay and needs the funds for the bus (\$161)
 Jen Garcia will send an email with these requests to be voted upon by Rudder (could not vote due to lack of quorum)

Reporter, Chelsea Meyers – not in attendance

Fundraising, Jana Stark – we need more Sands Box sellers, currently have 37 sellers but would like to recruit more sellers

Old Business

No vote needed regarding changes to budget distribution
Annual Fund guidelines discussion

Meeting Adjourned at 8:48pm