

Rudder Meeting Minutes January 19, 2016

Members Present: Kim Symon, Kelly Crantford, Joie Linser, Kelli Jasper, Jennifer Garcia, Jana Stark, Gina Brenner, Krystan Krailler, Sarah Giles, Nickole Pope-George Sarah Gilchrist, Stacie Flick, Craig Rozen, Sarah Lord, Alex Linser, Sara Sheets, Craig Rozen, Heather Gerker

Others Present: Angela Lyman, Tara Brock, Margo Smith-Joseph, Melissa Volck, Scott LeCates, Chris Vockell, Juliette Miller, Gina Wallace, Jackie Roberto, Chelsea Meyers, Gabe Meyers, Whitney Szabo, Lauren Busterna

Meeting Called to Order at 7:08pm

Welcome - Speaker cards are available

Approval of November Minutes, accepted unanimously

Announcements: Read-a-thon kickoff February 5th

Principal's Report: Sarah Lord

- Spelling Bee for 5th & 6th Graders was a success, a 5th grader won
- Kicking off a Hundredth Day food drive – February 3rd – Valley Interfaith Food & Clothing Center
- Special thanks to Jana Stark for a very successful Father Son Game Night & Mother Daughter Pajama Party
- Eagles Nest – new quarterly newsletter with Chelsea Meyers
- A local school has asked to tour Sands for ideas on personalizing education
- ILT/LSDMC meeting update – Sands is our “Mother” Montessori school, trust & collaboration are important, strong tradition, diversity, etc
- CPS has a new social-emotional curriculum with 24 key character strengths – Connie West will be coming to Sands this Friday 1/22 to present info on this curriculum at the parent coffee. Beech Acres will also be coming to present info on mindfulness (Snow date the following Friday 1/29)
- Sands will be getting a new 3-6 classroom next year
- We will also be offering full day preschool to all families who would like to participate. Discussion followed about building space, required 90 minute nap, etc.
- Our 6th grade team has begun a pilot called “Breakfast in the Classroom”. There has been a 50% increase in breakfast participation, a kiosk is available for breakfast on-the-go upstairs. Eating breakfast has been proven to improve learning and concentration.

LSDMC: Alex Linser

- Sub-committees have been organized to address each priority of LSDMC: Increasing diversity, maintaining Montessori philosophy, closing achievement gaps
- Board meetings are on Monday afternoons, 4:00-6:00, all are encouraged to attend

ILT: Sara Sheets

- February 2nd at 6:00 Montessori Coalition meeting
- This Friday 1/22 is the next ILT meeting
- Craig Rozen passed out a flier about the National Walk-In to support public schools
- Scott LeCates began a discussion about Montessori Coalition meetings & several other issues

• Committee Reports

Garden Committee, Jackie Roberto

- Meeting with teachers who have been participating in the raised beds

- A larger committee meeting will take place in February
- Jackie applied for a “Whole Kids” grant - \$2,000 for a continuing garden. If awarded to us, this money will be applied toward the things that are established priorities taken from teacher meetings & committee meetings
- A University of Cincinnati student is wanting to start a community garden in Mt. Washington, Jackie is hoping to have her use the space behind our school.

Business Manager, Jennifer Garcia –

- The current print-out of the budget is not really reflective of the gross income for new events. We are not expecting to net zero, we are expecting to make a profit. Both new events, Father Son Game Night & Mother Daughter Pajama Party were successful & profitable
- Update on request from Kelli Jasper, Teacher Rep - she asked for printer/toner cartridges, totaling \$700. These were ordered and delivered, and ended up being \$400 instead of \$700
- Karen Huneke, 6-9 teacher requested \$1,150 to attend the American Montessori Society Conference in Chicago. Discussion followed... Does this request align with our philosophy of supporting the maximum number of students? If we approve this type of request from one teacher, many more requests from other teachers will likely follow, and we cannot afford to approve all of these individual requests A motion was made to “not fund” the request, motion was seconded, 12 yes votes, we are not funding the request.
- Mr Bob is requesting funds for two custodial carts. Gina Brenner found some on Amazon – two carts, including shipping costs \$338. Discussion followed...
Sara Sheets – is this an appropriate request?
Sarah Gilchrist – silent auction could possibly support this expense
Sarah Lord – confirmed that CPS budgets are being slashed
Craig Rozen - encourages them to re-submit the request through the district first, then re-visit the request for funds from SMPO
- Sarah Gilchrist motioned to pay for one cart, Nickole Pope-George seconded the motion, Alex Linser motioned to table the motion, Kim Symon seconded the motion to table – motion has been tabled
Sara Sheets – brought up the idea of adding a wish list for these smaller requests
- Ms. Toebbe requested \$2000 for playground equipment – Campbells Labels points may be used. Kim Symon motioned to use the label money for this purpose, Kelly Crantford seconded the motion. 13 yes votes, this request has been approved
- Erin Dean – will be officially requesting funding for buses to take the three 6th grade groups to “Queen City Clay” on March 18th – more info to come.
- Discussion of the new district requirement for federal background checks for all parents who could potentially be left alone/unsupervised with students (field trips, tutoring, etc). The cost has gone from a \$5 requirement to a \$66 requirement. Should we offer to help parents with this cost who can’t afford it, but would like to volunteer at Sands?

Reporter, Chelsea Meyers – not in attendance

Fundraising, Jana Stark

- \$450 was projected to be brought in by the two new events (Father Son Game Night & Mother Daughter Pajama Party) Actual earnings were over \$2000! A special thank you to Stacie Flick & Gina Wallace for heading these two committees and planning successful events
- February 5-19 Read-a-thon
- Silent Auction May 14th - Melissa Volck & Sarah Gilchrist chairing this committee
- We have a new idea for a joint fundraiser with Fairview – Whitney Szabo presenting this idea – Gathering of bands on Friday, April 8th at the Woodward Theater in Over the Rhine. Musical show with several bands including some Sands parents & Fairview parents. \$200-\$250 budget will be asked for by

- Fairview – minimal expenses because the venue has been donated, just about \$100 for sound person
- Sara Sheets – Color Run and Heart Mini-Marathon connection
 - Discussion followed about fundraising...

Old Business

We cannot vote on the budget re-distribution at this time, they will be working on the numbers

New Business

- Kelly Crantford (speaker card) we have \$5000 to spend this year, what are the parameters?
Criteria from last year – We need to know if a request is for a teaching team or an individual teacher
More discussion... What are the parameters for SMPO funding???
- Kelly Crantford & Heather Gerker will be working on establishing these parameters and sharing this info with the Sands community

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40pm