

Rudder Meeting Minutes **July 7, 2015**

Members Present: Kim Symon, Kelly Crantford, Joie Linser, Kelli Jasper, Jennifer Garcia, Nickole Pope-George, Jana Stark, Gina Brenner, Chelsea Meyers, Alex Linser

Meeting Called to Order at 7:13pm

Welcome: Gina Brenner, President – Goal for this year’s Rudder is to “agree to disagree” and respect everyone’s opinions while representing all parties. Also, to get back to the fundamentals (the “triangle” philosophy)

Approval of May Minutes – deferred to August meeting

Announcements

- We have a new principal – Sarah Lord
- An email from Jesse Dunbar indicated that there will be a committee to run athletics this year. Gina expressed the importance of having someone from this committee at each Rudder meeting this year.
- The Fundraising Coordinator position has still not been filled. An interested party is concerned with taking on too much, discussion followed... possibility of sharing this position?

Principal’s Report: N/A

LSDMC – Alex Linser spoke about new principal. She has a strong Montessori background, she fit the characteristics that parents and teachers were looking for - someone more visible and committed to fostering community.

Old Business – Discussion of new 2015-2016 budget (Kelly Crantford)

- The funds raised for classroom baskets at the silent auction was averaged and divided evenly among classrooms (average classroom basket sold for \$115). Four classrooms made more than \$115 because they sold most of their magnets.
- We are waiting on CPS to approve the request for Smart Boards in order to spend the \$7500 single expenditure
- Gina – How do we treat fundraising? We need to think about the downward trend and how we are going to change this. Discussion followed... Can we go back to just two strong fundraising events? Should we try direct solicitation in lieu of events? Walkathon?
- Discussion of sending a letter to parents giving them the option of volunteering for fundraising events or sending in a monetary donation- we need to recruit new volunteers and fresh faces
- Direct Classroom Support was brought down from \$305 last year (per FTE) to \$245 this year. Concern that we do not wish to remove funds from this area when these are exactly the people we are trying to support. Discussion of “tweaking” the budget to allow for more funds in this area. Rudder members in agreement that budget should be kept the same.
- Extra \$5,000 is set aside under single expenditure – discussion of dividing this amount up among teachers to make up for changes in the Direct Classroom Support. Rudder members in agreement that this money should be kept where it is for larger/unexpected expenses.
- The two main changes to the budget were:
 1. Gardening funds were increased from \$500 last year to \$1,000 this year. Jackie Roberto has done a great job getting the teaching garden up and running and we want to keep this momentum going. Hopefully someone will be lined up to take over for her at the end of this year, or teachers will be self-sufficient at that point.

2. \$100 has been set aside for the 6th grade “Moving On” ceremony. This money was requested by this year’s event organizers to be used in future years.

Gina – an email will be sent to Rudder members to vote on the budget as discussed (with necessary updates from Kelly). We will also discuss the possibility of doing the Education Technology Fund Drive again (is this necessary?)

Meeting Adjourned at 9:25pm