

Rudder Meeting Minutes September 15, 2015

Members Present: Kim Symon, Kelly Crantford, Joie Linser, Kelli Jasper, Jennifer Garcia, Nickole Pope-George, Jana Stark, Gina Brenner, Alex Linser, Krystan Krallier, Sarah Kreis, Angela Lyman, Tara Brock, Nyonu Lewis, Gina Wallace, Matthew Wallace, Sarah Giles, Juli Miller, Erin Scheper, Margo Smith-Joseph, Krista Clark, Melissa Volck, Sarah Gilchrist, Elizabeth Bowker, Lissa Ellegood, Karen Huneke, Jaime Struve, Kathy O'Hara, Stacie Flick, Chris Vockell, Shawna Wingerberg, Thomas & Sharice Wood

Meeting Called to Order at 7:05pm

Welcome New Members and introduction of speaker cards
Approval of August Minutes from General Parent Meeting

Announcements

We have a new website – sandsparents.org – thanks to Phil Roberto & Kathy O'Hara
New Athletics Coordinator – Chris Vockell

Principal's Report:

- Administration is running an “Advisory Class” - focusing on character education and talking about possible future career paths (this goes along with the “My Tomorrow” district initiative)
- Sands parents are invited and encouraged to come in to classrooms and share talents/interests (i.e. - cooking class with a chef in kindergarten)
- The district has approved a nurse practitioner Mon-Thurs 7:30 – 3:30 at Mt Washington Elementary School. Sands students are welcome to visit Mt Washington school to receive these health services.
- Spirit Days – Teachers are being asked to submit names of kids who are demonstrating school spirit to be given a chance to win prizes
- A reporter from WCPO came to cover the story of 40 years of Montessori

LSDMC – Alex Linser spoke about LSDMC.

- They meet on the second Tuesday of each month in the Sands office. Anyone is free to attend the meetings. Contact Alex Linser at alexlinser@gmail.com if interested in coming to the meeting/getting involved.

ILT – Sara Sheets spoke about ILT.

- Their focus this year is on the growth mindset (and perseverance).
- Some students do not have text books and other educational materials that they need from the district. Sarah Lord is following up on this issue.
- ILT is trying to determine the best way to use “Schedule E” money - this is a flexible pot of money they can use for enrichment activities, etc.

Committee Reports

Kelli Jasper, Teacher Rep –

- Volunteers are being recruited for tutoring students who are “on the bubble” in reading & math. Volunteers will be trained evenings or weekends. Robyn Appino elaborated on the tutoring program.
- On September 24th & 25th Judi North (health aide) needs help with vision screenings – 4-5 volunteers each day. The names of parents interested in helping with this task are on the original volunteer interest forms sent home the first week of school.
- Eliza Martin has not received the items she ordered last year. Kelly Crantford will be following up.

- 9-12 teachers are so excited about their E-Beams. They finally ordered them on Friday. They were only able to purchase four out of the seven originally planned for, because the cost was more than predicted. The teachers pitched in some of their classroom money to make it happen.

Business Manager, Jennifer Garcia –

- Audit will be conducted in the next two weeks. Taxes need to be filed by October 15th.
- At the end of last year we approved a line item for fundraising for Market Day, and realized that Market Day does not exist – the amount budgeted was \$500. We need ideas to go in to that slot in the budget. Fairview makes a lot of money on the Read-a-thon (Sara Sheets)

Fundraising- we still don't have a coordinator.

- Alternative methods of fundraising discussed:

1. Jana & Joie have been collecting info on doing a Sands Community Sale. Twice annually – spring & fall (March & September). Not necessarily planning to make \$10,000 this year, but in the long term it's possible. Madeira makes about \$10,000 off of each sale. Moms of Multiples in NKY makes \$25 – 30,000 for each sale. Also pays back parents – Sands gets a percentage of what is sold and parents (sellers) get a percentage. How do the schools manage the split? We would keep 25% and sellers would keep 75%. All sellers would be Sands parents – products not stained, excessively worn, recalled (two strikes rule would apply). Madeira takes 30%, Moms of Multiples takes 10%. We would possibly charge \$1.00 admission at the door. Volunteering for certain shifts can have incentives – Joie says sellers would be required to volunteer (hope to have a certain number of sellers by January). We would market the sale to people way out in the community and the majority of the work would be in marketing and communications. Haven't figured out a name yet. Alex Linser's question – do we need a budget? We are hoping to keep the marketing \$1,000-2,000. Joie says budget finalizations will happen after the carnival.

2. Sarah Gilchrist, silent auction had great attendance but didn't pull in money we expected. Silent auction is an extreme amount of work. Parents voiced that they loved having this party. Now we have a \$10,000 income budget for the silent auction. Community donations come to SMPO pool that gets spread across everything we do. The money that's raised from the classroom baskets goes directly to the teachers. We don't want to take that element away. We also want to keep the special days - Day with the principal, day in the office, etc. Possibility of combining these two elements with Community Wellness Night and make these raffle items instead silent auction. Raffle tickets could be purchased for weeks leading up to Community Wellness Night. Also thinking of keeping the element of a parent party – Sarah suggested a trivia night. Discussion followed...

Both of these fundraising ideas will be added to the agenda in October.

SCRIP – Sarah Lord added that she has seen other schools fundraising with gift cards ordered online through SCRIP

Amazon Smile – another fundraising idea

Kelly Crantford, Kroger Plus Card contest – send in proof of Kroger rewards (on a receipt) and the class that has the most receipts will get a pizza party. Sign up again in April for Kroger card rewards

Gina Brenner is in support of continuing to hold a silent auction party. The work is not worth it, but the party is worth it, and the baskets and art projects are worth it. She will put together a budget for a silent auction to be presented in October.

- Fundraising letter – Gina Brenner, Education & Technology Fund Drive. Money that will be spent right away. Discussion followed – suggestion of providing examples in the letter of how this money was spent last year. Gina’s suggested wording - If you would like to have a say in what the money is spent on, please attend the PTO meetings. Discussion followed... Sara Sheets offered to help draft the letter.

Old Business

- Update to SMPO By-laws needs to be addressed and posted to the website (Sarah Gilchrist & Kim Symon are completing this task)
- May 2015 minutes have been approved via email (Kim Symon)
- List of dates for events this school year is being worked on... to be shared as dates are confirmed

New Business

- Sarah Giles is in charge of Grandparents/Special Friends Day. Meetings have been set up for planning.
- Sarah Lord – have you heard any feedback about the changes in magnet enrollment process? Yes, people are moving out of the district because of the changes (negative). Sarah Lord - the fact is that 92% of families in the lottery system get their first or second choice of schools (positive). Discussion followed...
- Carnival is coming. Sign up genius will be coming home from teachers or room reps to sign up for volunteer slots in classroom booths. Set up starts at 7am and Joie will need help.
- Speaker cards – Chris Vockell (athletics coordinator) - registration is starting on Saturday for basketball. Doesn’t fill up quite as quickly as soccer.
- Tuesday, October 20th is the next Rudder meeting

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45pm