

Seattle Waldorf School Parent Association Meeting

September 15, 2009

7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Grade School Campus
Music Room

Facilitator: Cindy Scheyer

Attendees: Shelly McSweyn, Geraldine Kline, Norm Smith, Shannon Hobbs, Richard Watkins, Tim Love; Natalie Steiner, Maria Galvao, Maribel Cuizon

Minutes

Welcome

Agenda item: Welcome & introductions

Presenter: Cindy Scheyer

Discussion:

New Parent Association Secretary – Maribel Cuizon

Agenda item: Treasurer's report

Presenter: Shelly McSweyn

Discussion:

- Parent Association (PA) funds were spent on purchasing SWS clothing and other merchandise that will be available for sale on the school campuses.
- Approximately \$400 of the funds remains in the PA account, although final accounting is yet to be determined because recent sales of school merchandise needs to be tallied.
- The funds remaining in the PA account is enough to complete the construction of the information kiosk, which will be located near the main entrance to the school.
- Tom Kayser, Board member, will create the drawings for the kiosk.
- Geraldine indicated that extra funds can be loaned from the general school fund in order to see the kiosk project to its completion.
- An idea was brought up to display an illustration/graphic of a thermometer that shows the goal set for the scrip program and the funds generated towards meeting that goal; this would be located on one wall of the multi-sided kiosk.

New Business

Agenda item: Back-to-School Night

Presenter: Cindy Scheyer

Discussion:

What to expect

- Brief introduction of PAs role in the school.
- Introduction of team leaders and team.
- Volunteer sign-up sheets located in back of room.
- Sara Canady and Michael Rice will set up 2 tables for the sign-up sheets, brochures, and so on.

Agenda item: Michaelmas

Presenter: Shannon Hobbs/Cindy Scheyer

Discussion:

- The Maple Leaf Lutheran Church parking lot is not available for school use on Saturday, October 3. (The church parking lot has a capacity of 40 vehicles.)
- The possibility of street parking only may not be practical.
- Location of Michaelmas events for the Saturday evening family celebration:
 - Labyrinth will be set up in the upper-field.
 - Dinner in lower-field.
 - No bonfire this year.
Per discussion from Nettie Fabrie, a bonfire in September is not the ideal time during the season. Instead, the celebration of the Summer Solstice on June 24 is a more appropriate time for a bonfire; PA will look at the feasibility of celebrating this festival.
- Tim Love approved the use of the tents used at the Meadowbrook Farmers Market for use at Michaelmas.

Conclusions:

Adequate parking is not available on Saturday, October 3. **Michaelmas Family Celebration** is moved to **Saturday, October 10**.

Action items

Person responsible

- | | | |
|---|------|---------------|
| ✓ Contact Diana Wolfe to explore other parking options. | Done | Shannon Hobbs |
| ✓ Check with Diana Wolfe about Sound Circle schedule. | Done | Shannon Hobbs |

Agenda item: Parent Association Fundraising Team

Presenter: Cindy Scheyer

Discussion:

- Team lead position is open.
- Currently, the Fundraising Team includes:
 - **Niz Marar**, who will continue as team lead for the **Scrip Team**.
 - **Teresa Graham** and **Pamela Haines** are leads for the **Merchandise Team**.
- Should Scrip and Merchandise teams be combined into one fundraising team or should the teams stay separate?
- Funds generated from the fundraising team will be used to cover expenses for school festivals and other service projects.
- Discussed the possibility of a Bingo Night combined with a bake sale fundraiser.
It was determined that this type of fundraising does not align with the school's fundraising strategic plan; when teams in the school start running too many fundraisers, they start to compete against the overall fundraising efforts of the school.
- Bingo Night was originally proposed as a social and not a fundraising event.
As a school, we need to make a distinction between raising money and raising the social aspect of the community; all activities should align with the philosophy of the school.

Conclusions:

- Revisit next month after Back-to-School Night to see if there is interest from anyone in the school community to lead the fundraising team.
 - Fundraising teams will meet with Jesse Michener to week of September 21 – 25.
-

Agenda item: Community Commitment Team

Presenter: Cindy Scheyer

Discussion:

- Team lead position is open.
- Community commitment volunteer list has been transferred to a database that is accessible by school staff; the list was previously maintained by Natalie Steiner.

Conclusions:

Revisit next month after Back-to-School Night to see if there is interest from anyone in the school community to lead this team.

Agenda item: Meadowbrook Farmers Market Team

Presenter: Tim Love/Natalie Steiner

Discussion:

- The Meadowbrook Farmers Market is an outrageous success for the school.
- A connection of the farmers market to the school has been established with the neighborhood. Neighbors who live nearby continue to visit the market each Sunday.
- Sunday, September 6, 2009 was a rainy and blustery day in Seattle. Because of the weather, the Mercer Island Farmers Market reported an 80% drop in sales, the Ballard Farmers Market reported a 70% drop in sales, and the Meadowbrook Farmers Market at SWS reported a 40% drop in sales. Despite the weather, shoppers at the Meadowbrook Farmers Market showed their commitment by coming to the market to shop.
- The market has received only one complaint from the community thus far--- a market shopper had parked in front of a neighbor's driveway.
- Geraldine feels that we haven't found the best way to support the farmers market at the school and that the market is still operating on the "outside" of the school community; we need to work together as a school to support the market.
 - How can the school support the farmers market better?
 - How do we get the word out for more students and adults to contribute to the farmers market in some way?
- From a music perspective, music is the preferred performance because it adds to the market atmosphere.
- The Meadowbrook Farmers Market is the only market in Seattle that sells biodynamic produce.
- The market would like volunteers for a 1 ½ – hour commitment for the following tasks:
 - Parking
 - Children's crafts
 - Set up and clean up
 - Signage
 - Marketing
 - Newsletter
 - Grant writing
- The biggest need is for additional people to commit to at least a year to help with the management of the market.
- To continue the market's connection with the school, the market is looking for parents to become board members of the Meadowbrook Farmers Market. If there is no participation from the school community, this might result in the market moving to another location in the neighborhood and losing its connection with the school.
- The market has proven itself to be a highly successful marketing tool for the school and has resulted in many new enrollments.
- There is a school connection with some of the vendors selling at the market. For example, the Grade 3 students visit Jubilee Farms, one of two vendors at the market who sell biodynamic produce.
- The cob oven that was built at the market this past summer is now a working oven.

Conclusions:

- To help cultivate the connection with the school, a proposal was made to send an e-mail to the parent body to invite them to visit the farmers market at least once before it closes in October.
- Reinforce the message that the market and school is partnering around education and awareness of Waldorf education and support of our students.

Agenda item: Community Service Team **Presenter:** Cindy Scheyer

Discussion:

- Community service has lots of volunteers; just need to find a leader.
- Parent involvement with outside community --- for example, planting trees, volunteering at soup kitchen, and so on.

Agenda item: Social Team **Presenter:** Cindy Scheyer

Discussion:

- The Social Team organized the welcome event on the first day of school.
- Arranges social events for parents to gather and socialize.
- Parent social hosted at the home of Scott and Teresa Graham is scheduled for **Friday, September 25 @ 10 am.**
- **Parent Talent Night** is scheduled in Huckleberry Hall on **Saturday, February 6 @ 7 pm.**
 - The PA is looking for a volunteer to lead this event.
 - Wine can be served at this event as long as there are no children on the premises.

Action items

Person responsible

- ✓ Talk to Jesse Michener for ideas about planning this event. Cindy Scheyer
- ✓ Contact Mary Paradis at the Vancouver Waldorf School for information about their Stone Soup Night. Cindy Scheyer

Agenda item: Craft Group **Presenter:** Shelly McSweyn

Discussion:

Craft group will make needle-felted items for Pocket People at the **Winter Faire**, which is scheduled for **Sunday, December 6 from 11am to 3 pm.**

Agenda item: Teacher Appreciation Team **Presenter:** Cindy Scheyer

Discussion:

- Class parent rep meetings are scheduled for **Friday, September 18 @ 9 am** and **Wednesday, September 23 @ 7 pm.**
- One topic for discussion at the class parent rep meetings is to start a conversation about moving away from teacher gifts and moving towards service-oriented gift-giving.
The Teacher Appreciation Team would lead this effort of overseeing a new gift-giving policy.
- Geraldine indicated that this is an idea that cannot be dictated because there is a history of gift-giving from years of experience at the school; the gift-giving just needs to be reigned in.

Conclusions:

Suggest the idea of a service-oriented gift-giving with the class parent reps and gather their ideas at the meetings on Friday, September 18 @ 9 am and Wednesday, September 23 @ 7 pm.

Action items

Person responsible

- ✓ Add teacher gift-giving to agenda for class parent rep meetings. Cindy Scheyer

Agenda item: Other teams

Presenter: Cindy Scheyer

Discussion:

The following additional PA teams will give an overview at Back-to-School Night:

- After School Sports Team (Nancy Gilbert)
 - May Faire (Neave Karger-Megenhardt)
 - Winter Faire (Shelly McSweyn and Christina Brinker)
 - New Parent Outreach/Buddy Family Program (Meg Petty)
-

Wrap up

Next Parent Association Meeting:

**Tuesday, October 13, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Grade School Campus – Music Room**