

P.T.O. Minutes September 16, 2013

Attendees: Doug Bergstein, Jean Berthiaume, Jo-Ann Billings, Jill Ellis, Gretchen Frank, Kitty Friedman, Heather Hammond, Tim Jones, Sarah Jordan, Erika Lindberg, Leigh Williams, Cari Wilson

Jean Berthiaume (FES principal) called the meeting to order at about 6:10

All attendees introduced themselves. The agenda was previewed with several amendments made: A financial report by Doug will precede the review of by-laws and office appointments. Erika and Cari will present individual items as the final agenda additions.

Doug presented the financial report with the following overview:

Annual Expenses:

\$8 – 10K Technology / \$800 Four Winds / \$2450 Artist-in-Residence

Main Fundraisers accounting for Annual Profits:

Vermonte Carlo \$12k / Art Auction \$2k

Average Checking Balance: \$13 – 15k

P.T.O. by-laws were reviewed and it was determined that old by-laws (presently on the P.T.O. web site) and new by-laws (to be added to the web site) need to be reviewed and reconciled for purposes that suit the needs of the P.T.O. This item was moved to the agenda for discussion at the next P.T.O. meeting in hopes that members will review both set of by-laws in the interim.

Jill nominated Cari as president. Doug nominated Jo-Ann as vice-president.

Office appointments are as follows:

President: Cari Wilson Vice-President: Jo-Ann Billings

Treasurer: Doug Bergstein Secretary: Natalie Volpini (pending her acceptance)

Upcoming events were discussed:

A date for this year's Vermonte Carlo is confirmed for Saturday, April 5, 2014. Some ideas presented were on-line bidding in advance of the event to attract an audience outside our community as well as offering the Sugarbush Season Pass as a silent auction item rather than part of the raffle.

The idea of a Fall Social was presented with possible draws being an outdoor movie (portable screen might be available through Karen Nevin, Festival of Arts Director), ice cream social, potluck, and a walk/hike to highlight the hiking trails across the street. Logistics of location and best timing for this event were discussed as an item to come back to in a future meeting.

The idea of a Trunk or Treat event was well received with a tentative date (Sunday, October 27) and location (Mt. Ellen parking lot or FES playground) to be confirmed by Heather. Ideas for this event were discussed: Free or suggested donation for event; bobbing for apples; cider press; donut sales and costume parade. Leigh suggested incorporating a traditional element the likes of the Stowe School sponsored costume parade or Thatcher Brook lantern parade. Heather agreed to confirm the Mt. Ellen parking lot as available to us, at which point we can proceed with garnering volunteer support through the P.T.O. website, FES newsletter and e-mail notice to FES parents.

The Original Art Works, a fundraiser that showcases the masterpieces of our FES students in the form of mugs, mouse pads and similar gifts, was discussed. Jean agreed to follow-up with Melissa Roberts who has coordinated this in the past as well as FES art teacher, Nora McDonough.

Box Tops for Education, a fundraiser that requires collecting and mailing in box tops from General Mills' products, was discussed. Jean and Jo-Ann agreed to speak with Beth Abbott-Koch to involve her Kindergarten class as a means of an additional math learning tool and fine motor skills exercise.

Baked Beads, a fundraiser that requires collecting receipts from this annual event, was discussed. Student involvement could be on site at the event.

It was agreed that all 3 of these fundraisers need greater promotion through our FES community channels.

“Spring Visioning” was moved to the agenda for the next P.T.O. meeting.

Jean presented the current “School Needs Report” with detailed literature pricing out each item. Filling the iPad Cart would serve the purpose of furthering our student centered learning, while the round tables would serve to model a more communal atmosphere for our students and be utilized by the general FES community. Jean agreed to research whether the iPads may be purchased on a lease-to-own platform and follow-up with Michele to see if there are examples of the round tables in our area for viewing.

Erika read a thank you note from Allison Schlageter (FES librarian) to the P.T.O. for fundraising efforts resulting in the purchase of the new iPad cart. Curriculum integrating art and technology is one way these iPads will be put to good use.

Cari relayed a mixed response to the First Day Breakfast and proposed a survey to determine if the FES community is in support of continuing this tradition next year. Cari agreed to create a short survey including a feedback item for new ideas to replace this event, “How else as a community could we celebrate this tradition?”

Cari requested the monthly P.T.O. meeting be moved to the second Tuesday. The group agreed and the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 8.

Meeting adjourned at about 7:30 p.m.