

Parent Association of the Lab School (PALS)

Minutes

Present: Sheila Williams Ridge, Elizabeth Criswell, Ayuko Uezu Boomer, Samira Afzali, Katie Gross, Vanessa Ruderman, Mara Liss, Jon DeVries, Chris Rupp, Britta Rupp, Stephanie Misono, Katie Bird

-Possible schedule/calendar change for 2017-18: open for discussion. Ideas and thoughts shared. Plan to continue discussion in future.

-Function of the group: Bylaws revisited, motion made by Mara Liss to change election of officers to first PALS meeting in fall (usually September or October). Passed by majority agreement. No other changes.

-Leadership: Discussion of function of chairs/co-chairs and open positions for chairs. Katie and Samira voiced that they would like to be co-chairs again and this motion was passed by majority agreement. Recorder position discussed, Mara Liss volunteered.

-Parent Education: Ayuko discussed survey that was sent to all families and the results, noting that the top three education items voted on by families were: kindergarten transition (73%), guidance (61%), and executive function (76%). There were other ideas suggested as well by survey takers. Discussion surrounding how many education offerings for the year and what they should involve. Discussion of presentations in the past and decided to have Kindergarten Transition by Ann ? in November 2016 and a guidance/executive function presentation in the spring. Discussion around asking all Lab School families for volunteers to speak on a specific topic or if they know anyone in community who would like to make a presentation and to work on this with Sheila. It was noted that attendance last year was great and having child care was very helpful. Other ideas for speakers include: Laney Shapiro from ECFE/Minnesota Reggio Network or a neuroplasticity/neurodevelopmental speaker.

-School portraits: plan to ask for parent volunteers in next week to help organize children and escort them if needed to have pictures taken before school starts on Oct 25 and 26. Katie Bird and Vanessa Ruderman volunteered for 26th pm. Ayuko's class to have each child be escorted to picture by their parent.

-Facebook group: Discussion around intent of Facebook group and/or page. Class Facebook groups for intent of interaction difficult with privacy settings. Further discussion to be had around this. Other ideas for other ways to communicate with families: Google Documents, BigTent, Periscope, Instagram.

-Event Committees: Discussion around different events that took place last year and plan to have people volunteer for coordinator of each event who will organize event and volunteers.

Holiday gift/donation (Nov/Dec 2016): Katie to speak with Laurel (alum parent) and get information from last year. This was a great success and majority

would like to do this again. Coordinator role would involve: contacting organization, communicating with lab school families about donation process and dropping off donations.

Gym Jam (February 2017): Fundraiser for motor equipment for Lab School. Very successful in past. Works well to have 2 coordinators (or more) and then they communicate volunteer opportunities to other parents.

Spring Soiree (May 2017): Fundraiser for Alex P. Galle Scholarship Fund. Discussed different aspects of spring soiree and that there are a lot of different jobs and that including all families from lab school to get donations from community for silent auction and food, etc can be helpful. Plan to discuss further at winter PALS meeting. Will need volunteer coordinator(s).

Playground Clean Up and Toy Exchange (Spring 2017): Plan to discuss further at winter PALS meeting. Will need volunteer coordinator(s).

Spring Camping Trip (Spring 2017): Agreed on by majority to have spring camping trip. Need volunteer coordinator(s).

Stephanie made request for when volunteer opportunities are sent out to families that they include specific details about each opportunity, including expected amount of time and work involved. This makes it easier for families to plan.