

## **PAC Meeting Minutes**

**October 3, 2011 7:00 – 8:30 PM**

### **In attendance:**

Staff: Barb Murphy, Director, Ross Thompson, 5AM teacher, Dalia Gheiler, 3 PM teacher, Sheila Williams Ridge, Asst. to the Director

Parents and child/ren's class:

Marina Aleixo , Ross

Liz Anderson, Dalia

Christine Brand , Ross

Kelly Hurda , Ayuko 3-day

Lori Kaufman, Ayuko 2-day, Ross

Katie Louis, Dalia

Jane Rosenberger, Ayuko 2-day, Elizabeth 3-day

Kay Strauss , Dalia

Amy Woodward, Dalia

Amy Wozniak, Elizabeth 3-day

### **Agenda:**

- 1) Parents introduced themselves and what class their child/ren attend(s) at SGM.
- 2) PAC Minutes:  
There's a PAC button on the website; minutes will be located here.  
Barb Murphy will download the minutes on-line.  
Teachers or room parents will also distribute to the entire class via email.
- 3) PAC Bylaws:  
Quick review of the bylaws of the PAC; their history and mission and asked the question, "Do we want this much formality in PAC?" That's to be determined.
- 4) Question: Barb asked, "Why are all of you (parents) interested in participating in PAC?"  
Currently, there are two roles of PAC:  
Support the SGM lab school by organizing events and fundraisers and encourage families and parents attend all of our special events.  
Help create parent/family connections outside the classroom. In other words, promote community within our SGM community.  
Other ideas?  
Incorporate bilingualism in the classroom. Let's value cultural diversity and find ways to weave it into our classrooms. Suggested by Marina Aleixo.  
Have events earlier in the day as some children go to bed early.  
Have two Gym Jam's – maybe one in the month of December? (Note: May not be possible; we have to wait for athletes to resume school.)

- 5) Our main agenda item for tonight's meeting is to plan the work of the coming year which will include the following:

**To schedule/plan the Gym Jam:**

The parent who volunteered to lead the Gym Jam is Lori Kaufman. She has agreed to contact Bierman Field and follow-up with Barb Murphy, school director. Typically, the director works with the university to secure the venue.

Right now, our first event date choice is the last Friday in January followed by our second choice which is the first Friday in February. The goal is to have the event take place prior to parent-teacher conferences. Stay tuned for date determination.

The event is usually 6:30-8:00 p.m. and is held to raise money to purchase new large motor equipment for the school. It's a "donation" event; Barb Murphy welcomes families at the door and collects donations. Remember, this event is open to the community at-large as well as family and friends and athletes get connected to the event through the athletic department. All U of M student athletes have community service time that's required of them annually; therefore, securing student athletes to participate in our event is usually easy as long as communication is initiated.

The committee members do the following: get the equipment and the large water cooler, secure the athletes, purchase snacks (last year it was bananas), secure the venue and have a "communication person" to enlist parents to help with the distribution of water and bananas, etc. during the event.

**Plan an all-school December event (such as a playdate) & create a December community calendar:**

Parents who volunteered to serve on this committee: Liz Anderson, Christine Brand and Kay Strauss. These three parents will spearhead the effort and then form a subcommittee of additional parents to help create the community calendar and put it on-line.

We have a 3-week break in December and during this time, each classroom usually plans a few playdates and/or activities for families to participate in if interested. Again, it's segregated by classroom. Each classroom is represented by a PAC parent. The idea is to create the December calendar and put it on the website for distribution to classrooms.

**Plan/organize the Spring Soiree:**

Discussion spearheaded by Amy Wozniak who served on the committee last year and will lead the team of parent volunteers this year. Note: Amy will work towards having committee members on the team this year who can "shadow or mentor" the lead parents so we have a transition plan in place for the following year when even more committee members and their families "retire" from SGM.

Our preferred date is April 21, 2012.

Last year, it was held at The Hole in Coffman Union. For those unfamiliar with this event, it's a parents-only fundraising event with food, drink, silent auction, games and entertainment. Last year's event raised \$10,000 for the SGM scholarship fund. It's a free event for parents. This year, we are looking for a parent who can help with the food. Does anyone know a caterer who can donate food and wine? And this year, we are looking for a non-campus event site because of the University's new policies regarding alcohol. Sheila mentioned an idea to have samples of wine or

wine tasting from a vendor; another parent mentioned a donation from a local microbrewery; all ideas will be pursued as options. Typically, letters sent to businesses (to donate items for the silent auction) go out after Christmas.

There are 5-main areas of responsibility that need to be covered:

Games, food, entertainment, silent auction and venue. Also, we need a parent to help with classroom projects and set-up the day of the event.

As for the venue, Katie Lewis' partner works at the Hennepin History Museum (also called the Gail Christensen Mansion) and mentioned that her partner may be able to help us secure this locale for this year's soiree. Katie's name was added to the committee list.

Sheila has a list of parent's interested in helping with this event via the parent forms turned in at the start of school.

Next steps: Amy Wozniak will establish/set-up an organizational meeting. She will pick a meeting date and email/communicate to the parents working on the committee from last year first and then weave in the list of new parents who are interested in helping (to come from Sheila's forms) as well as survey the entire school again in case parents who didn't express interest on the forms might come forward.

**Promote/incorporate bilingualism into the school:**

PAC parents working on this will be: Marina Aleixo, Katie Lewis and Amy Woodward.

The question here is, "How do we promote awareness of our cultural similarities and differences into the classroom? In other words, how do we build awareness in our classrooms of how we're the same and how we're different?"

Ideas: Develop an "Around the World" event; incorporate games into the classrooms that are from other cultures; create a passport idea/game in the classrooms (via Amy Woodward); ask Francis to incorporate musical differences into her classroom visits or simply focus on music from around the world. The PAC agreed the idea with Francis was a great place to start in addition to forming a small committee of parents to further investigate this mission.

**Community Building initiatives:**

Katie Lewis has agreed to spearhead this effort (how do we build community within our community?) with fellow PAC parent, Marina Aleixo.

First steps include forming a committee of parents interested in this initiative and pass information/plans onto the teachers and the room parents. These community building initiatives will be organized classroom by classroom, or via the classroom.

6) Meeting adjourned.

Minutes taken by Jane Rosenberger