

TMSPA Meeting Notes

May 31, 2023

Introductions

The meeting began with an overview of the agenda which included the head teacher report, review of fundraising ideas, determining the goal for the fundraising efforts, a treasury report, and discussing unfilled positions for the next school year. Then each participant introduced themselves:

- Zoe, Yee Jee's wife, mother to a 9th grader and an 11th grader.
- Raymond, father to a 9th grader named Isaac.
- Ron, father to an 11th grader.
- Emily, mother of a future 9th grader.
- Rosemary, mother of a 9th grader named Kezi and another son who was in Mini. Tim, her husband, was also present.

Head Teacher Report - Field Trips

The head teacher report which covered:

- Year-end celebration: a "save the date" email has been sent out, with an option for those who wish to donate instead of bringing a dish.
- Field trips: Ongoing discussions about the ability to go to Banfield next year due to limitations caused by COVID-19. Banfield is prioritizing post-secondary groups, and there is a group size limit.
- Fundraising: it was suggested that fundraising could help with the costs of field trips.
- Alternative field trip: If Banfield doesn't work out, there's a possibility of a trip to Drumheller, although this might be costly.
- International field trips: There's a possibility that these will resume in Spring next year.
- The Strathcona trip: This trip for 8th, 10th, and 12th graders will be happening in September.

There was also a general discussion about accommodating students whose families may face challenges dealing with rising costs of field trips and how fundraising activities might help with this. They further discussed how to fairly manage spots on the field trips, taking into consideration those students who missed previous trips due to the pandemic.

Fundraising

- The attendees considered focusing fundraising efforts on field trips due to their significant role in the program and the financial pressure that has increased after the Covid-19 pandemic. After a brief discussion, a unanimous agreement was made to center the fundraising on field trips.

- Ideas for fundraising events were discussed:

1. Hosting an open mic/karaoke music night at an offsite venue for community building and fundraising. The idea was well-received, with suggestions made on having a fixed menu for controlling costs.

2. Creating a student poetry and art book, with submissions from students, to be sold to families. This idea was seen as a feel-good initiative that may not make a lot of money but would promote creativity among students.

3. Conducting a wine auction where each family contributes a bottle of wine that is then sold through raffles or a silent auction. It was noted that this would have to be a parent-organized, offsite event.

- The attendees briefly discussed how to best distribute the funds raised, with one suggestion being to lower the cost of field trips for all participants, while another was to create a financial aid pool for those in need.

- The fundraising goal was brought up, and while a specific number wasn't settled on, there was a consensus that the target should be to cover as much of the cost of the field trips as possible. The idea of calculating a per-student fundraising target based on the estimated cost of the upcoming field trips was proposed.

- YJ confirmed the existence of a downloadable PDF on the TMSPA website that details the different ways individuals can donate to the TMSPA. However, YJ admitted that the organization has not done significant fundraising pushes recently due to recovery from the Covid pandemic. They proposed improving communication about the fund and a goal of improving the affordability of field trips.

- There was a discussion about needing a new treasurer and events organizer for the organization. Furthermore, the need to manage the Facebook group and other communication channels, currently without a dedicated manager, was also emphasized.

- Christina clarified that the school board has a policy in place to help students who cannot afford field trips, suggesting that this is always included in field trip letters.

- Attendees considered the idea of having separate "buckets" of funds for different needs and suggested they could make it clear to the community that the TMSPA is accepting donations for this purpose.

- Zoe suggested the need to reduce the overall cost of field trips to ensure that they are more accessible to all students. She emphasized community building events as a way of raising funds.

- Finally, Zoe proposed to send out an email to all TMSPA members, inviting them to join a team to organize a fundraising event in the fall.

Treasury Report, Open Roles in TMSPA

1. Zoe shared the treasury report, noting that the account has \$3,541.61 with no transactions since the last meeting except for funds from pizza donations. This balance is net of the fall book purchase transaction.
2. The recent renovations were discussed. The new mini-lounge/office is well used and appreciated by students.
3. A decision was made to support Ms. Savich's request for funds for the upcoming Science Fair event. The requested donation was for \$300 to cover the costs of a trophy and lunch for students.
4. Highlighted open roles, particularly someone with experience in social media and communications, event planning, and treasury or accounting.
5. Emily expressed interest in the treasurer role, with Rosemary also offering to help with fundraising activities.

****Action Items:****

1. Zoe to email Ms. Savich to inform her about the donation decision.
2. Raymond to try and approve the donation transaction. He and Zoe would coordinate on this.
3. Zoe and YJ to stay in touch with Emily and Rosemary regarding their interest in the treasurer role and fundraising activities.
4. Zoe to add Emily to the TMSPA email list.
5. YJ and Zoe to send out an email after the meeting summarizing the decisions and action items.