

TMSPA Meeting Minutes

Nov 29, 2023

Head Teacher Update

Fundraising and Movie Night Plans:

- Christina discussed options for fundraising, specifically the idea of selling snacks during a movie night, as selling junk food during school hours is prohibited. She suggested this could be a viable fundraising event.
- Past movie nights featured older movies, like "Home Alone," chosen by student votes. She emphasized that newer movies aren't necessary for attracting attendance.

Integration of Grade 8 Students:

- Christina shared her limited observations on the integration of grade 8 students into the school community. She mentioned not teaching them directly but noted they seem like a nice group. She alluded to varying dynamics in different student groups over the years.

Winter Celebration and Talent Show:

- She mentioned the upcoming winter celebration on December 14th, inviting parents to bring food and participate. In the past we organized tables by grade for parents and featured class acts by students.
- She clarified that the actual talent show would be held in June during the year-end celebration.

Fundraising Goals and Needs:

- Group discussed specific goals for fundraising. These include prizes for the talent show and supporting Mini Council events like pumpkin carving and decorations.
- Christina also talked about the need for guest speakers and the desire to have laptops or tablets, specifically Chromebooks, for student use during presentations and activities, to avoid reliance on personal phones.

Administrative Considerations for Laptops:

- Christina raised the need to consult with school administration regarding the acquisition and maintenance of laptops, noting they might not be serviced by the school board (VSB) and would require separate management.

Next Steps for Fundraising:

Next steps would include finalizing the decision on fundraising for laptops, check for any administrative hurdles, and then start a fundraising campaign to acquire them.

Overall, Christina's update focused on fundraising initiatives, student involvement in event planning, integration of new students, and logistical considerations for upcoming school events and resource needs.

Financial Update

The association's current funds stand at \$3,620, including \$160 allocated for the potluck. The balance may change with additional donations.

Fundraising Initiatives:

- Discussed past ideas about gift card fundraising with Donald and Spud. However, there were challenges in communication and coordination, especially with Spud being unresponsive.
- A suggestion was made to ask for direct cash donations at the winter party.
- Past successful fundraisers like the 50/50 draw were mentioned, though concerns about it losing steam were raised.

Winter Party Planning:

- Proposed using visual aids like pictures of laptops at the winter party to encourage donations for specific items like ukuleles and iPads.
- The idea of setting a recommended donation amount was discussed, with an emphasis on the importance of contributing to children's education.

Online Donations and Communication:

- Plans to update the donation form on the website to simplify the process.
- Suggested implementing an online donation form with a processing system, acknowledging the need to cover processing fees.
- Discussed the effectiveness of the School Cash Online system for donations, recognizing its ease of use for people on their own devices.
- Emphasized the need for more frequent and targeted communication regarding donations and the importance of recruiting more parents to sign up for email updates.

Ideas for Encouraging Donations at Events:

- Suggested having QR codes at events for easy access to the online donation portal.
- Discussed the idea of providing a wish list from teachers for specific items or needs, which could encourage targeted donations.

General Discussion on Fundraising and Support:

- Acknowledged the varying financial capacities of the community but emphasized the importance of supporting the school.

- Discussed the potential of a small table at the potluck for donations and the importance of effective messaging to encourage contributions.
- Overall, the discussion focused on various fundraising strategies, the importance of clear communication and easy donation processes, and the need to engage the parent community effectively in supporting the school's needs.

Potluck and Housekeeping

Treasurer Update:

- Successfully onboarded Emily as the new treasurer. All formalities, including form signing and bank procedures, are nearly complete.

Next Meeting Dates:

- Proposed dates for the next meetings are February 28th and May 29th, avoiding conflicts with holidays like Family Day and the May Long Weekend.

Winter Party Planning and Advertising:

- Discussed advertising the TMSPA more actively, particularly at the winter party, to encourage parent participation and support for children's education.

Fundraising Ideas:

- Explored the idea of a bottle and can recycling drive as an eco-friendly fundraising initiative. Plans include distributing clear bags and labels to families for collection and return. A specific account number (possibly a simple one like 7777) for the mini school will be set up at the recycling center.
- Suggested the possibility of organizing a movie night fundraiser in January, with students taking responsibility for certain aspects.

Communication and Engagement:

- Discussed improving communication with parents, especially around fundraising initiatives and events. Plans include optimizing the donation form on the website and strategizing email communications.
- Emphasized the importance of engaging parents at events to inform them about fundraising initiatives and the need for support.

Allergy and Food Considerations for Potluck:

- Addressed food allergy concerns for the upcoming potluck, emphasizing the need to avoid peanuts and label foods containing common allergens like eggs.
- Plans to organize a vegetarian section and a dessert table, with consideration for gluten-free options.

General Discussions:

- Covered various topics, including the potential for competing with the general school pack, the Return It Express for bottle returns, and the importance of clear labeling for food at the potluck.
- Highlighted the need for a clear strategy for email communications and the importance of parent engagement in TMSPA activities.