

TMSPA Meeting Minutes

Oct 11, 2023

Head Teacher Update

Field Trips and Activities

- Strathcona Trip: Successful, highlighted by a lively dance event where Grade 12 students actively engaged with others.
- Grade 11s: Attended a trip to Galliano Island.
- Ashland Trip: Currently not happening, future uncertain.
- Grade 9s: Alternative plans are being explored since Bamfield trip did not materialize. Possibility of a trip to Alberta being considered for feasibility.

Q&A Session

- Discussion on Dance Event: Positive feedback on the inclusiveness and enjoyment experienced by students, particularly highlighting the involvement of Grade 8 students.
- Future Activities: The rest of the school year will focus mainly on classroom enrichment, with occasional guest speakers. A winter celebration potluck is planned for December 14, featuring class acts, a secret Santa event, and family participation.

TMSPA and PAC Distinction

- Clarification on TMSPA's role distinct from the Parent Advisory Council (PAC).
- Encouragement for mini school parents to attend PAC meetings, which occur on the third Tuesday of every month, either in-person or via Zoom.

Fundraising and Involvement

- Focus on fundraising to help with escalating costs of field trips.
- Ideas for fundraising include a wine auction (off school grounds) and a potential karaoke night.
- Emphasis on community involvement and openness to new fundraising ideas.
- Involvement in Fundraising: Clarification sought on whether fundraising is intended for parents or to involve students. Emphasis on using fundraising as an opportunity to foster connections with children.
- Fundraising Purpose: Aimed at addressing rising field trip costs and community building, not solely for large financial gain.

- Professional Fundraiser's Input: A professional fundraiser among the parents shared insights, noting that while fundraising events can be labor-intensive, they are more about community building than significant financial gain.

Fundraising Ideas

- Wine Auction and Karaoke Night: Discussed as potential fundraising ideas. The wine auction could be a simpler method for raising funds, while a karaoke night could be an inclusive community event.
- School-Specific Fundraisers: Suggestions included sales of items like freezies and pop rocks, which have been successful in elementary schools. Concerns about district regulations on selling sugary items in schools were raised.
- Low-Effort Fundraising: Ideas such as gift card sales and partnerships with local businesses were discussed as effortless ways to raise funds.
- Parent Participation and Suggestions: Encouragement for parents to contribute ideas and take active roles in organizing events and fundraising activities.
- Support for Classroom Needs: Discussion on whether fundraising could support specific classroom needs or activities.
- Teachers' Requests and Field Trip Enhancements: Consideration of funding for additional field trip activities or classroom requirements.
- Food Sales: Discussion on the feasibility and regulations around selling food items like freezies for fundraising within the school. Note: concerns around VSB policies and regulations.

School Funding and Requests

- Classroom Needs and TMSPA Contributions: Discussion on whether classrooms require funds from the TMSPA for activities or supplies. It was noted that teachers occasionally request funds for specific needs or activities.
- Field Trip Financing: Currently, field trips are financed by parent payments, with fundraising being an optional supplement.

TMSPA Roles and Processes

- The process for requesting and allocating funds within the TMSPA was touched upon, indicating a need to discuss the roles and responsibilities of the TMSPA executive further.

Roles and Responsibilities within TMSPA

- Treasurer Role: TMSPA is seeking a treasurer, emphasizing the role's importance in managing accounts and acting as a signatory. Currently, they have two signatories but aim to maintain three for accountability and efficiency in processing funds requests.
- Teacher Fund Requests: Teachers occasionally request funds for specific needs, like books or science fair expenses, which TMSPA facilitates.

Fundraising and Financial Management

- Previous Fundraising Events: Mention of past events like dinners that contributed to the TMSPA account.
- Account Balance: Currently, TMSPA has a balance of around \$3,460.
- Donation Mechanisms: Discussion about donation methods, including e-transfer and direct deposit. A suggestion was made to do a straightforward ask to parents for donations, especially during events like the Christmas potluck.

Succession Planning

- Need for New Leadership: The current co-chairs will eventually step down when their children graduate, highlighting the need for new leadership in the TMSPA.
- Call for Involvement: An open invitation for parents to consider taking up roles within the TMSPA, with a focus on finding someone to transition leadership to in the coming years.
- Treasury Role: Acknowledgement of a new volunteer for the treasurer position, Emily.

Community Engagement

- Gift Card Fundraising: Discussion on the simplicity and effectiveness of gift card fundraising, particularly with Donald's Market and Spud. Plans to implement this for the upcoming potluck event.
- Email Communication Strategies: Emphasis on the need for clearer, more focused email communication to engage parents effectively. Suggestion to send singular topic emails for better response.
- Parent Recruitment: Plans to launch a recruitment campaign to involve more parents in TMSPA activities and decision-making.
- Collaboration on Communication: Plans to collaborate on crafting a focused recruitment and communication campaign to engage more parents.
- Utilizing Events for Engagement: Suggestions to use the holiday potluck event for direct parent engagement, such as through QR code links for easy sign-up.

Meeting Scheduling and Plans

- Next Meeting: Scheduled for the end of November, with a goal to have some fundraising activities in place.
- Potluck Event: Preparation for the potluck event, including fundraising initiatives and possibly making gift cards available.