

**TRAILSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP PTA MEETING
Thursday, January 15, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.**

- I Welcome (Donna Colombo, President)**
Board present: Donna Colombo (President), Donna Shomo (Treasurer)
Greg Ogorek (VP), Faith McGarrity (Secretary), Bridget Beichler (Principal)
Staff representatives: Ann Withington, Denise Hagood

II Treasurer's Report

A. Update – Budget / Actual revenue (Donna Shomo)

\$19, 000+ in checking account.

Most revenue coming from clubs - \$6000 +

Also received donation from orthodontics / business partnerships.

Restaurant nights have also brought in revenue.

A question was asked regarding the line items for Staff Luncheon / Hospitality. Donna C. responded that the money for Staff luncheons is coming out of the Hospitality line item. (?)

Volleyball event – very successful. TMS had in excess of \$1000 in ticket sales, but the final numbers are not in regarding concessions and spirit wear. The budget will be updated to reflect those revenues.

B. Scholarship/Grant Committee Update –

Marjorie Lee / Latrice Weir are the parent representatives for the Grant Committee. The Grant Committee has drafted the Teacher Applications for wish lists. These applications should be available by Monday. BB offered to send an email out to the full staff regarding the applications and process.

The Committee confirmed that requests can be made as soon as the forms are available and can be made electronically. There is no cap on the requests. Each will be evaluated individually. The committee is made up of two parent reps, and two admin reps. All funds should be disbursed by mid-February.

Bridget Beichler noted that some may want to know whether grants will be available for items or activities not occurring during the school year. Marjorie responded that there were very few limitations – they would be looking at impact.

III Committee Updates

A. Highlights

1. Spirit/Restaurant Nights

Thursday January 22nd – Zoe's kitchen

February 17th – Fuddruckers spirit night

Donna C. suggested that we give Fuddruckers TMS spirit wear to hang in their restaurant. BB agreed to donate an item.

2. TMS Vs FWMS Volleyball Game

Donna C. reported on the Serve the Trail Volleyball game. TMS had a great turn out. The students were well behaved, the raffles were well received and a lot of fun prizes were awarded. We sold over \$1000 in tickets and \$254 in spirit wear items.

The Serve the Trail t-shirt will be signed by all the team members and framed. Next year TMS will host the Volleyball game..

3. Clubs

Faith gave the update from Jen Walsh (Chair person of the Clubs and Activities). All Winter session clubs are up and running. Enrollment is closed. Some clubs are over capacity and students were turned away. i.e. STEM/ DEBATE. Clubs are running smoothly. The International Club was cancelled and won't run in the Winter or Spring.

BB anticipates growth in the clubs next year as the teachers become more comfortable with their duties and obligations at TMS.

4. Reflections Arts Program – Donna C. reported - This program is closed at the local levels. First place entries have been turned over to the District. Once the District decisions are made, first place winners will be compete at the state level. A simple reception will be held for all participants before next month's PTA meeting. About 5 families participated.

5. MSAAC

6. LEAP

7. SEAC – Andrea Foster reported – The January meeting was canceled due to the weather. The next meeting is 2/4 and will focus on the 2nd part of inclusive practices meeting. Two folks from Admin will be there to talk about inclusive practices. The SEAC meetings are the 1st Wed. of each month at 7:00 pm. at the admin building. All are welcome to attend.

8. 8th grade social – Greg Ogorek reported - 88 kids attended. DJ was great. The kids all had a lot of fun. Everyone including staff was up and dancing. The advertisement for the 8th G social led to the 6/7 combo social.

9. 6/7 combo social – February 27th Friday 7-9.

Committee of 6th / 7th G. parents / staff counselors / Mr. Moeser / Make sure there is an email sent to the 7th G. Volunteer. Make email string and send out to.

BB: 7th G – in gym. 6th G –

Neal Krause – DJ contact from basketball.

10. School Store – Greg O’Gorek and Tyler U. (TMS ISR and Resource teacher) reported - at the last executive committee meeting it was agreed that that the store will be constructed and run by the school, not the PTA. The PTA will provide whatever support the school needs to make it a success. The name of the store is the “Trailstop”. TU will be meeting with Emblemox to put together a supply list and is working on inventory. The store will follow the Stone Bridge model. The grand opening is February 2nd. He is working with counselors and other teachers to put together a well balanced staff, and have kids get involved. Good Wolf Productions may be involved in the Grand Opening. (Bridget then told the membership about Good Wolf Productions and played a video at the end of the session).

Vanessa Smith and Aimee Ahart are the PTA POC for Tyler.

SGA will also be involved. TU envisions once this store is up and running, we can bring FBLA in.

11. Staff Luncheons (George and Kristen Christman)

2/13 – Italian luncheon

May – probably Cinco de Mayo

12. Staff Appreciation – Mary Gubler & Monica –

Talking about moving Staff Appreciation to end of April instead. April 27-May1st.

Taking care of the Staff – Monthly small things.

Will be asking parents for gift cards now so we have them ready for raffle prizes, etc.

IV Fundraising Opportunity/Spring

(As provided by Kathryn Horner and reported by Faith): The PTA has just enrolled in an e-Waste recycling program through nationally recognized Planet Green Recycle. Not only will this program aid in developing an important sense of awareness and responsibility among our students regarding e-Waste, it is also a fundraising opportunity for our school.

<http://planetgreenrecycle.com/fundraising/>

Here is how it works:

- We will collect used ink cartridges and small devices to be recycled.
- Students bring accepted recyclables (see below for list) in their backpacks and drop them into recycle bins, positioned near entrances/grade houses.
- We package the items (no sorting necessary), send with pre-paid labels
- Planet Green Recycle determines values and keeps records
- We receive compensation when cumulative values reach \$25.
- Does not require contract
- In addition, TMS' local and online supporters can navigate to Trailside's dedicated page at Planet Green Recycle to purchase remanufactured ink-jet cartridges. Each purchase gives 15% back to TMS.
- TMS parents can also set-up collection boxes at their workplaces and pass along collections to TMS PTA to be recycled.

Here is a list of the recyclable items accepted by Planet Green Recycle

- Inkjet Cartridges
- Cell Phones/Pagers & Accessories
- GPS & Radar Detectors
- Mobile Hot Spots
- Calculators
- eBook Readers
- iPods/MP3 Players
- Digital/Video Cameras
- PDAs
- iPads/Tablets
- Video Game Consoles & Handhelds
- Video Games & Accessories
- Laser/Toner Cartridges (Please Note, pre-paid shipping labels cannot be used to ship these items)

****PTA would like student support from the onset of this program, in helping to advertise and promote e-Waste recycling around the school and community.****

PTA proposal:

- A student-viewing of short power point description of program during Compass, to help roll out this initiative, sending students home with informational flyer.
- Students create posters to advertise this worthy program around school. (Posters can be turned into the house secretaries and PTA would collect and post them. See below for poster slogan ideas.)
- Position recycling bins near Main Office and House secretary office entrances, with one central bin *in* the main office.
- A student leadership team, per grade level, retrieves recycled items at each House, and brings to a central collection bin in Main Office
- A parent committee checks central bin and collect by week's end
- A (bi-weekly?) progress report on collections can be shared during school announcements, and real-time progress report will be shared on PTA website.
- Student leadership team keeps count of recycled items - running tally can be displayed on a poster, per grade house
- Possible grade-level contest at mid-way point (to coincide with Earth Day?) and toward the end of school year.
- Goal = \$300-\$500

Questions:

Would a teacher like to sponsor, be POC for students, for this program at school, fully supported by the PTA?

- What ideas for student contests? And, rewards?

Imminent needs:

- A parent-volunteer committee to help empty central collection bin and ship items. POCs Kathryn Horner and Faith McGarrity
- Donations of boxes for shipping recycled items

Examples of poster slogan ideas:

"Be mindful and recycle!"

"Give it new life - Recycle!"

"It's all about the *waste* - Recycle!"

BB: We should be in touch with the special Ed teachers to engage kids in service opportunities within the school. There is also potential in the 8th G. Resource. The POC will be Mr. Hanselman.

IV Principal's Report

Bridget Beichler reported - Rising 6th Grade event last night. Lasted about 90 minutes.

2/3/15 Parent information meeting night for 6th and 7th graders.

World Language/ Science/ Math- will talk about choices with the kids.

World Language teachers spoke this morning in Compass about their classes. This got the kids excited.

BB trying to promote Mindset. Developing Mindset lessons in Compass:

2/5 – Book Club for parents.

In discussion forum – teachers feel many kids definitely have a fixed mindset and want to be spoon fed.

BB posts educational tidbits on Website – Khan Academy

**2/5/15 Author Kristen Levine – coming to TMS presenting to 7th Graders.
“The Lions of Little Rock”**

2/13/15 Name Game – 4 weeks left to know every kids’ name by Grade Level team. This is going well so far.

2/24/15 – Assembly for kids – Same sky productions focuses on kids with disabilities. Performance with kids who have disabilities. Powerful assembly.

The Silent strength assembly that was performed in Autumn focused on bullying. Next week, Student government is recognizing an anti-bullying day on 2/20/15.

Bright Life Buddies – combo btw kids with special needs / mentoring. They are doing a food drive at the food pantry.

End of Semester – no exams. There may be a summative assessment. No midterms. Assessment should measure what they do or don’t know. But if they weren’t provided instruction there is no alignment and it is not fair. Many kids didn’t have an A day since last December. World language - CPA’s – done every quarterly.

V Adjourn – 8:25 p.m.