

GSF General Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2016

Called to order: John Dasher, 7:03 p.m.

Present: John Dasher, Suzanne Maloney, Karen Russillo, Stephen Roth, Sarah Brewer, Wil Klesius, Adam Treewater, Jaclyn Guelfi, Tami McCall, Sondra Lewis, Kim Goodhope, Denise Pesavento, Keala Landry, Kim Evans, Denise Louie

Approval of October 2016 Meeting Minutes: Suzanne Maloney moved to approve, Wil Klesius seconds the motion, minutes approved

New member to induct: Beth Sauls (not present)

Principal's Report – Kim Goodhope – Great things to report this month. Our Turkey Trot is tomorrow, 1st and 2nd place winners of 4th and 5th grades win a turkey for their families. Our plan was to do this early enough so that parents would know that they have a turkey and won't have to buy one. We have some new substitute teachers. Mellissa Williams had her baby, Poppy, and they are all doing great. In her classroom is Anna Nunez, who is a 7 year experienced teacher from the Vegas area. In Kindy, Jane Gray injured her shoulder but will be back after Thanksgiving. In her class is Ms. Gabby, who is Ms. Jones' sister. We also have Dima (Ms. F) who is a Dominican student who has been hired to help support Ms. Murphy's 4/5 split during math time and for some other support. Zero Waste bins – there are green, brown, and blue bins out, and we are now composting paper towels. We are trying to literally get to zero waste. They are providing us outside recyclables stations (3 of them) so that the bins can be dumped into them. Green Team – We have been providing them shirts, and we have already seen a huge increase in the kids' abilities to get the right things into the right bins. We will be joining the SEAL program, which is a way of providing teacher support for curricular pieces. We have not been a SEAL school, but next year our K and 1st grade teachers will be part of the program. It works on academic language and having the teachers really use their curriculum to enable the kids to have solid conversations about the curriculum.

Teacher Liaison – Adam Treewater – Highlights: Kindergarten classes will be going to see The Nutcracker on 12/2. 1st graders went to the Academy of Sciences. 2nd graders went to Slide Ranch. 2nd graders are also doing a hydroponic grow unit. Next will be visit to City Hall downtown SR. 3rd graders will be going to Academy of Sciences. They are also using Chromebooks, and are doing fun physics projects, including using spaghetti to build a tower to hold up a marshmallow. 4th graders have the upcoming grandparent or special friend tea where they get to invite them into the class. 5th graders have Outdoor Ed November 15-18. Representatives from the Charles Schultz Museum are coming in to teach them about cartooning. Technology – 2nd graders are using Toontastic, and they made Halloween movies with green screens, creating 3d renderings, and lots of other cool things. Stand up desks have arrived! 26 desks and 8 stools are waiting to be put together. \$10,500 was raised for this. Warriors Day is Dec 2 for Spirit Day. Teachers recently agreed to a contract and will be getting a 4.5% increase. Teachers again won the bocce tournament!

VP Updates

VP Fundraising- Nicole Klock/Suzanne Maloney – John Dasher reporting in for Nicole Klock. \$135k has been raised for Thrive. We are currently \$35k short of goal but way ahead of where we were this time last year. This shows that the 100 day goal really accelerates the giving. Great job by the team. We are hopeful that we will hit the goal by Dec 2. Sending the email with the list of current donors (and by the absence of names, the current non-donors) has been impactful and has gotten people talking. Suzanne Maloney– Bocce was held Oct 22. It was great fun and it raised just under \$5500 net. Team Insignati (the teachers) were the victors. Best costume went to team of Ralph Boccio. Date is already set for next year - Saturday, Oct 21. Campus Beautification – our paddle raise at the auction last year was for campus beautification. We have been talking about what we need and what we can salvage. As of now we need 13 new round tables in kindergarten area, 2 buddy benches (children who want friends to play with will sit there and others will be invited to have them join them to play), we will replace the shoddy kindergarten benches, and will create a place for handouts/flyers. Leila Winton wants to implement a water bottle fill station. The kindergarten teachers would like a mural painted on the large wall adjacent to the classrooms. We have several parents who could do it. I am going to talk to Ms. Blauvelt to see how we want to go forward with this. I am also going to reach out to the Dad's Club to see if they want to build us some benches, which would help us save money.

VP Finance – Karen Russillo/Stephen Roth – October numbers – Total income for the year – currently collected we are at about 100k. This includes parent/family contributions, matching, events, including bocce event. We have United cards on Ms. A's desk. Request to please buy pre-bought Amazon gift as we get 4%. Stephen – I will talk to Jane about doing a push to advertise this since people are starting shopping. Read a thon is our 2nd biggest fundraiser for the year, and we still have crab feed and the auction as well. Expenses – no out of the ordinary expenses other than the iPads. Net income of about 10k currently.

VP Community Building – Tami McCall/Jaclyn Guelfi - Holiday singing in the neighborhood will be Thursday, December 8. We will map it out and decide how to divide people and we will get more megaphones. Hot chocolate and red vines will also be provided. Thanksgiving food drive is going on and runs through November 22 in the MPR. We donated a bunch of Halloween candy (300 lbs!) to Dr. McDowell, which will be sent to troops overseas. Mr. Treewater's class also did little notes to the troops that we included and those were dropped off as well.

School Programs – Wilhelm Klesius – Spirit Wear is here! Items are sold online. We get 20% of what people order. Our Book Fair through Scholastic is going very well. Our Used Book Fair will be mid-March most likely. We could use more volunteers for the volunteer coordinators. Teacher wish list is going very well.

President Update - John Dasher – The San Rafael school board took comments from the public about Ipso school, a charter HS which has filed a petition to open in SR school district in fall 2017. The comments were overwhelmingly against Ipso, because the current schools already provide the services they are proposing. They never worked with the community to find out what it needed. If approved, a percentage of the existing HS budget would come out of the pie to fund it and would essentially bankrupt Terra Linda High School and SRHS. The Board found the petition deficient. They had errors, including hours not adding up, and they didn't have a specific workable plan. They appealed to Marin County of Education (MCOE), but they had to present the exact same petition without any alterations.

MCOE looks at reasons it was denied. They had another meeting with public comment and again it was overwhelmingly negative feedback. On November 8, they unanimously voted to deny the appeal. Now the charter school will appeal to State board of education, and the hearings would be in March in Sacramento. State level historically has sided with the charter schools. I can give updates to what the Board is planning to do. It is important for us to stay aware of this situation as it impacts the schools our kids will go to in this district. The other update is we have our architect for the new MPR, Wally Gordon. He has designed the MPRs for other very good schools throughout Marin. In our meeting with him, he was clear that he hoped he would get our school. He wants what he designs to make sense with the setting. He is excited and enthusiastic. We are going to slowly move forward with our communications on what our ideal MPR would have in it and how we would move things around. We will probably have Dan and his team come out for the Jan meeting to describe the process and the progress and expectations.

New business – John Dasher – Want to discuss how to get more people to attend the GSF meetings. Attendance has slowly dwindled though we still have a robust parent community. What has changed? Needs discussion. Good ideas are to have speakers come in to discuss timely topics. For example, the year common core came in, we had the teachers come in to talk about how that impacts the learning. The Bob Marcucci meeting regarding Davidson is well-attended. Ideas include having some meetings at the Loch Lomond Yacht Club, pairing the meetings with an informational training, such as mindfulness, having the Encore teachers come in December to show what they do and how the Thrive money actually helps them. We will get a survey together to send out for ideas.

Denise Pesavento– question on Security cameras. Answer is that they are coming from the district. We are getting 6 of them. Question on whether they would be monitoring the campus during the day. The answer is that their primary purpose will be to monitor after hours, but we can check into how they could be used during the day as well to monitor presence on school grounds.

Meeting adjourned 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by Sondra Lewis, Secretary