

GSF General Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2016

Called to order: John Dasher, 7:04 pm

Present: Suzanne Maloney, Karen Russillo, Beth Sauls, Leslie Capinpin, Anne Mueller, Nicole Klock, Stephen Roth, Kim Goodhope, Katie Pohl, Jake Thompson, Jaclyn Guelfi, Heather Hutchinson, Tami McCall, Adam Treewater, Sarah Brewer, Christelle Blumin, Michael Mink, John Dasher, Denise Pesavento, Keala Landry, Sondra Lewis

John welcomed everyone and noted that at the GSF meetings, we will always have space in “new business” for anything that attendees want to bring up, or information that you want to share with the Board, and we will disseminate information from the meeting. Introductions around the room.

Approval of June 2016 meeting minutes: Suzanne Maloney moved to approve, Sarah Brewer seconds the motion, minutes approved.

Principal’s Report: Kim Goodhope reported we are off to a great beginning to the school year. Updated some Glenwood programs - Positive Eagle Program (PEP), “The Nest” – the way for smaller communities within the school to start building. This program is for all grades, K – 5th, and is run by a classroom teacher. Once per month will have small groups of kids get together in their “Nest,” which will be their community group the whole way through Glenwood. Each year, new kindergarteners will be added to replace the graduating 5th graders. We will have a mini “global playday” on one of the minimum days in October, during conference week. San Rafael City Schools has created new board policy language against bullying. Next Wednesday morning is the Power of One, which is a refresher about the problem solving wheel and dealing with cyber bullying. Green Team – we are partnering with Zero Waste Marin, have received a grant from them, and there will be an audit later this month. Our Green Team leader left last year when her child graduated to middle school and Zero Waste Marin will help make us sustainable. We are looking to get a green ribbon for our efforts. Will be focusing on teaching of the students on how to be more conscious of the things around us. Gardening info passed around. Mr. Leshnick is our Green Team teacher liaison, and we had close to 80 kids come to the introductory meeting for green team. Reminder that alcohol isn’t allowed on campus. Friday is Back to School night. Kindy will have a separate meeting to avoid overwhelm, then will be 1-2 grades, then 3-5. We now have Houghton Mifflin which is skill based and there will be more about this at BTS night on Friday.

Teacher Liaison Report : Adam Treewater – Technology use in the classroom - 5th grade is utilizing Do.ink - creating a green screen effect. 4th grade does Chromebooks with Google docs. Ana Ravetta is coming in to do native American projects with the 4th graders. 3rd grade is focusing on our community. 2nd grade will be creating selfies and biographies using iPads and Pages. And using “cahoot” to do quizzes. We now have cordless headphones in the class. 1st grade going to Academy of Sciences. For kindergarten, Mrs. Gray wants to fix up the K yard, with benches painted, more storage, and the garden. Standing desk update – we are trying to get class of standing desks. Vallecito is all standing desks, and the corresponding amount of focus by the kids using them is great, and there is more room in the classroom. We will be posting this on Donors Choose and we are hoping to get it funded in full. Will see how it goes for the 3 months. We will start with just Mr. Treewater’s class and then will hope to move

to the others. The cost is about 10k per class. We can send link out in newsletter or in Ms. A's newsletter but don't want to conflict with Thrive donations.

Approval of Operating Budget – This is the budget we will use as GSF signpost for the year. Our biggest expenditure is the consultants we use to teach music, art, PE, science, and technology. We also fund Instructional Assistants (IAs) who work in the classrooms with kids who need special help. Funds from the GSF also pay for school supplies and field trips.

Co-VP, Finance - Karen Russillo – Our budget for this year is very similar to that of last year. Consultant fee went up 5k. We did do one major shift, moving some of the money from Thrive into the Auction fundraiser. We set the target for Thrive a little too high last year so we took it down a bit, by \$20k and put that back into the auction fundraiser. Our expenses went down a lot when we moved the auction from Peacock Gap to Embassy Suites. We made up for it in the auction last year so adjusted it for this year. \$200k of the money we raise goes to our consultants/extra-curricular teachers. Parents here don't have to pay for classroom supplies or for any field trips. We have some money allocated for non-fiction books, athletic equipment, and crossing guard fees. We pay for one crossing guard who is provided and we pay Coach Jim to be the other one on the corner. Community building plans for the year – daughters dance and sons fun night used to be fundraisers but we decided to make them free, community-building events. We also host Fall family fun night and spring sing. The attempt is to net to zero at the end of the year. It is noted that all of the money we make in a current year is to be used for the following year.

Question: Will we be doing Cash for Trash again?

Kim Goodhope – We are still having some problems with broken bottles, but we are working on it. Looking at a security system, and how to make it a profitable venture. David Wetmore who runs the program would like to train someone on it, preferably someone who has a truck.

John Dasher – with Zero Waste Marin, we decided to pause it until we could figure out a lock box so the bottles aren't accessible and we are also looking at a security system.

Comment made that the marquee displaying activities at the front of the school is in need of improvement.

John Dasher – We did a fund-raise for campus beautification which could go towards this. This is also something that the district might be able to help us with.

Call for motion to approve the 2016-2017 budget: Tami McCall moved to approve, Suzanne Maloney seconds the motion, all ayes from attendees, budget approved.

VP Updates:

VP Fundraising – Nicole Klock with Thrive update. Anne Mueller, Kelly Kiernan and Nicole have been working on the Thrive drive. At three weeks in, there's been a little over 50k raised, which is about 20% of what we are looking for. We will keep sending flyers and email blasts for next couple weeks. The plan is to end the fundraiser on Dec 2, 100 days in. We want to give the focus to the fun side of fundraising and not hound people all year long. We also have the pledge part, where if you can't pay right away, you are pledging to by the end of the school year.

John Dasher – Year over year, we are up about \$6k over where we were last year, so kudos to Nicole Anne and Kelli

Co-VPs Community Building - Tami McCall and Jaclyn Guelfi – Thanks to everyone who came out to Fall Family Fun Night. People loved the music and the jumpies and the food truck was great. Salad option was popular. We think this format was great and people got to socialize as opposed to the movie. Next event will be holiday caroling on December 8. This was a popular event last year. It will feature hot cocoa, non-religious holiday songs, flashlights, and a route planned out. Our New Parent Social will be held September 29 at the Loch Lomond Yacht Club.

John Dasher – Volunteering is something that makes our community great. We still have some open positions in some important positions. If you are interested in hearing more, you can see me or email me. If you do volunteer, we want to make sure you are in a position that works well for your personality. Keep that in mind as you think about volunteering or volunteering someone for an open position. Current openings: We are looking for someone to join Heather Woolen and Molly Nute who head up the Volunteer Squad, preferably someone who likes to be up front to help in looking for people to fill roles. Other options are the Speaker Series, Author days, Emergency and Disaster Supplies (we need someone to go through current supplies and look for expiration dates, etc.). School Directory – we are moving to an online directory. Hope is to be able to use an app to move contacts to your phone. We have someone in place to do the layout and broader picture stuff (Kerrie Malone) but she needs a couple people to help with data entry. Scrip Program – a way to get money through sales of groceries, ie Andy's Market. It is a passive way to get money for our operating budget. We also need volunteers for three bigger activities that are later in the year - 5th Grade Graduation, Spring Sing, and Auction. Kim will work on recruitment of 4th grade parents to handle the 5th grade graduation. Tami will work on Spring Sing. We can find ways to use your help if one thing feels too overwhelming but you still have interest in volunteering.

Book Fairs - We have a new book fair in November, and then the used book fair in December. We have talked about having a presentation to Miss Holly at the end to tie the funds into our library. Changing to Scholastic (from Book Passage) makes it more money available to the classrooms. Timing of used book fair coincides with start of read-a-thon so it ties in well.

Summerfest - still needs volunteers! Ms. A sent out a notice today. It's a great event – bands and music from the schools, cake walk, jumpies. Kids in upper grades will be singing.

Calendar – We sent out an email last week with calendar attached. We do have a couple of changes to dates. Dads Club Poker Night will be Oct 29 at LLYC. Evan Sims is our new Dads Club President. He will use that venue event to talk about what other events the dads club might want to have. The dates of the used Read-a-Thon will be December 12, 2016 – January 22, 2017.

New business:

Kim Goodhope – We have had a suggestion that a color run might be something fun for the kids. Maybe make Rock and Run something that incorporates the color.

Katie Pohl – We are looking for Glenwood school reps for Heads Up. Also if there is anything you would like me to spill over to Heads up, please come to me. Heads Up supports the larger community and benefits our programs as well as Davidson Middle School.

Question from parent on whether we look carefully at the amount that parents are asked for Thrive and the fundraisers. Parents are asked for a lot and kids are asked to sell tickets, and there is also pressure to volunteer.

John Dasher – We can definitely do a better job with messaging. This is also one reason we want to stop the Thrive ask as of Dec 2. We realize that everyone's time is important and financial situations vary. We get a mix of larger donations, and smaller donations, and matches from companies. We do want to hear from you when you get an ask that makes you say "are you kidding me?" and we do appreciate the feedback.

Discussion of the \$700 per child ask and the volunteering asks. This money is necessary to fund our programs, and is not based on our cost of living. This is a discussion that we have every year. If the ask is too much, we would have to have the conversation about what we would have to take out. It ends up being about \$4 per child per "extra-curricular" class.

These meetings are a way to ask your questions and get answers. It is a hard discussion because we are talking about peoples' money and how they spend their time. We will check in on this periodically.

Multi Purpose Room (MPR) Update – Last November, we voted on bond measures for improvement at the district levels for both elementary and high schools. The bonds passed, including a \$115M bond measure passed for elementary schools. It was decided last year where the money would be spent. Glenwood is getting a new MPR slated for 2017-2018. Board meetings have been held this summer and there have been some updates. Starting meetings this month on general construction to explain the process. Then going to start matching the schools that will go first. Process goes now thru 2023. Our project is at the beginning of that phase. District is talking about concerns about escalation, as 250 schools are going out for bond measures this Nov., so many new schools looking for new construction which will raise the costs for new construction. Once we get matched up with an architect, there will be site testing and survey work done. There is a 10-person group that meets with architect, including 2 teachers, 2 neighbors, site council, and 2 adjacent community members, who will provide input. Will be reporting back to everyone to get input. After surveying is done, will do floor plan. Then will go to SR school board for their approval, which is contingent on where we are in our allocated budget. The money allocated for our MPR is around \$4.5M. goes to board to meet with engineers, then more board approval, then final plan that needs state approval. That takes another 4-6 months. This is all starting, but there is a 12-16 month process that needs to happen before it breaks ground. Updates will be given as this progresses.

In early August a charter HS (called Ipso) submitted an application for the district. Their proposal is to be charter school primarily for ESL students and where they see gaps in existing instruction. They presented it to the Board and got public comment in Aug. Charter schools get a percentage of the existing budget, which takes \$ away from existing schools. Comments from public were overwhelmingly negative, our schools already serve these students and have these programs, and a charter school would essentially bankrupt us all. Next meeting is Sept 26 and the Board will be able to ask questions. We need to be aware that this is going on and it could significantly impact our public high school. If 500 kids go there, that would take 20% of the HS budget away from TLHS and SRHS. Board votes, and if the vote is no, they can take it all the way to the State for appeal.

Meeting adjourned 8:28pm

Submitted by Sondra Lewis, Secretary