

GSF Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2015

Called to Order – 7:05 p.m. by Michael Mink

Present: Kim Goodhope, Michael Mink, Valoree Brovelli, Karen Russillo, Ramina Winton, Tami McCall, Caroline Jensen, Adam Treewater, John Dasher, Suzanne Maloney, Andrea Small, Sondra Lewis, Kathryn Elia, Sarah Brewer, Nicole Cibellis-Andrews, Juji Mayne, Margo Leardini, Leslie Capinpin, Kate Siegel, Christina Ramos, Wilhelm Klesius, Jana Mannina, Becca Mink, Stephen Roth, Jaclyn Guelfi, Sina Canellos-Scerba, Julie Michaud Lambert, Michele Dugan, Janet Ryan, Erica Smith, Reily Urban, Angela Wood, Adrienne Collet

GSF Board Introductions for 2015-2016 by Michael Mink

Approval of June Meeting Minutes – John Dasher moved to approve, Karen Russillo seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

Budget:

Budget for the year proposed. Voting members will vote to enact but we want feedback from all of you. There have been some small tweaks from last year. To become a member and be able to vote, 2 requirements must be met: 1) attendance of two consecutive GSF meetings, and 2) donation in any amount to Thrive. Induction takes place at the subsequent meeting.

Explanation of budget - \$340,000 is the goal to fund our needs, which is raised through parent donations. Chief fundraising event is annual Auction. Money goes toward extracurriculars that are not provided by the district, such as teaching consultants - PE, science, music computers art, field trips, library. \$13k budgeted for classrooms for teachers. \$24k for field trips so parents don't have to pay. Other funds go towards community building (e.g. Fall Family Fun Night), and GSF operating expenses (very small amount).

Increases to budget – It was decided in June to increase 2 consultant salaries. Preparation time funds needed to be added. 2 consultants are having larger class sizes and to compensate them we had to bump up salaries. We added some to fundraising income to Kids Thrive. Other things we have changed – athletic budget has been increased to account for purchase of new backboards. Still need to determine exact size and have them installed. We lowered amount for year-end picnic – was \$7k last year, has been lowered to \$5k. Lowered Outdoor Ed (4 day trip to Walker Creek) from \$10k to \$7k because class size of 5th grade is smaller. Field trips are all or nothing – nobody gets left behind so the cost is spread out.

Final P&L income statement from last year was reviewed.

Fundraising goal for current year – Goal for this year is \$342,000. Last year we got \$337,000. Other financial info is on the website. The big purchase last year was overhead projectors funded by the GSF for 1st and kindergarten classes so all classrooms would be outfitted w/ overhead projectors. Each was \$2500.

Principal's report – Kim Goodhope:

Crossing Guard - We have been paying \$13,500 for sub-par service so we have cancelled the service at Knight/W. Castlewood. Currently there is no guard, so we have had Coach Jim in a temporary role. To hire him permanently would be \$4250 for the school year for half an hour in the morning. The contract with the Transportation Authority for Richard at the crosswalk down Knight doesn't allow for us to move him. Another option is to see if we can get any interested parent volunteers, possibly as part of Volunteer Squad. If we opt to hire Jim, we need to determine where the budget is coming from. Suggestions made for neighborhood or parent volunteers, but concerns raised for liability issues, which will be researched. Consideration for budget for this can come from the following:

- 1) Special purchases – Item 7102 for \$9500. This gives us some flexibility so if we see something that needs to be done.
- 2) Year-end picnic – this was a recent add 2 years ago as a thank you to the parent population. That is another expense that isn't wholly required. This year we budgeted for \$5k.

Suggestions made to eliminate the student anthology and having the picnic being a “reward” if the budget it otherwise met and there are remaining funds that could be put towards it.

Up for vote: 4 options for crossing guard funds

Option 1 – cut \$5,000 from picnic, add \$5,000 for crossing guard (Coach Jim in the mornings)

Option 2 – Add \$4,000, allowing for someone in the afternoon

Option 3 – Cut \$3,000 from anthology, cut \$5,000 from special purchases, \$5,000 from picnic, and budget \$13,000 for crossing guard. This option gives max money for crossing guard.

Option 4 – Cut picnic and anthology (\$8,000)

Vote held and option 4 received the most votes. We will cut the anthology and the picnic and will put \$8,000k towards crossing guard.

Jana Mannina made a motion to approve budget with this change. Suzanne Maloney seconded. Motion approved.

Instructional Assistants – The GSF budgets us for instructional assistants to support all children with what they need. School has a 3-tiered intervention approach: Tier 1 is assistance in the classroom, Tier 2 is the child pulled out of class for instruction, and Tier 3 for specific designated help such as special ed or another higher need. We have three Instructional Assistant positions to fill currently as we have had resignations. We are considering hiring two current parents, Tami McCall and Erica Guagenti, to fill 2 of the positions, but one position would still be open. Pay rate would be between \$16 to \$20 per hour. Prerequisites are a college degree and passing a background check.

Wasps – Nests have been cleared but want to emphasize the importance of the kids being aware, especially when playing in the grass.

Mini iPads – A paddle raise at the Auction provided these for the kindergarten classes.

Google training – One teacher per grade level will attend to learn more about applying this to the classrooms.

VP Updates

Fundraising VP - John Dasher – In first 3 weeks of school, Kids Thrive has raised \$44,500, which is 24% of our stated goal, which is a little behind last year’s pace. Please plan to fill out pledge form and donate. We also take stock donations. See if employer will match donations as this increases your donation. Thank you letters sent out and will continue as pledges come in. Want to recognize kindy parents – Erlich parents have donated most so far. Reminder will come out in 2 weeks.

Community Building VPs – Caroline Jensen (not present) and Tami McCall – Fall Family Fun Night is 9/12. Includes food trucks, spirit wear, games, prizes, and a free movie (Big Hero 6). Starts at 5pm with movie at 7:30.

School Programs VPs – Erica Smith and Ramina Winton – Program this year includes author visit days, field days, walk and roll, green team, speaker series, book fair, field trip coordination (we need volunteer). Especially looking forward to 3rd grade presentation on mindfulness. Also looking to bringing an after-school class to talk about relationships and “girl drama,” how we can have kids form more positive relationships. Also planning donation of Halloween candy to troops. Looking for other ideas for more community service opportunities.

Teacher Liaison Report – Adam Treewater – The GSF has funded much technology in the classrooms. Dedicated iPads in the class are wonderful additions, as well as overhead projectors.

Volunteer Squad Co-Chairs – Adrienne Collet and Becca Mink. We have some holes to fill. Currently need a field trip coordinator, which can be done from home. Looking forward to involvement from parents of younger children for succession planning purposes. Calling out to all for assistance in getting everyone involved. Val Brovelli suggested a “shadow program” for people to start out and learn to lessen intimidation. Kim Goodhope suggested an ask for volunteer hours as we ask for the \$700 donation. Becca notes a request for everyone who volunteers to lead an event leave a “legacy book” to pass on knowledge. Plan is to do an appeal at the new parent social next week. Juji Mayne suggested idea of an “ambassador family” who would adopt families to check in with and encourage involvement in areas of interest.

Calendar of Events – The GSF website has all the info. Upcoming events include Fall Family Fun Night, Dine and Donate at the Range Café on Wednesday, 9/16. Percentage of sales goes back to the school. C New parent social Thursday 9/17 at Joy Walker’s house. Heads Up Summerfest which is district-wide fundraiser is at SRGS 9/26. Bocce event on 10/24, Crab Feed is 1/22, Auction is 4/2 at Embassy Suites, Spring Sing 5/20.

Old Business – Measures A and B. Tami McCall is co-chairing campaign for Measures A and B to raise money to upgrade SR schools. Vote is on 11/3. Measure A is for elementary schools including Davidson, and B is for TL and SR high (see www.qualitysanrafaelschools.org for more info). We need to raise \$100,000 and we can’t campaign at the school or on school hours, so we need people to volunteer to make phone calls. There will be a lot more enrollments in the district they need to raise funds. GSF donated \$5k to the campaign with the idea that there could be another donation to the campaign later. We will table the vote on this to the next meeting.

New Business – Tabled until next meeting due to time.

Meeting adjourned 8:50 p.m. by Michael Mink

Submitted by Sondra Lewis, Secretary