

TFT Meeting 3 November, 2008

In Attendance: Dawn Weaver, Renee Devereaux, Ginny Elliott, Oma Hampton, Stephanie Hinkle, Kerri Creager, Dean Boudouris, Doug Anderson, Amy Anderson, Chenoa Philabaum, Polly Christopher, Mary Drinkhouse, Lori Preston, Melynda Retallack, April Door-Jorgenson, Catherine Murphy
Minutes respectfully submitted by Catherine Murphy

Newly elected TFT president, Kerri Creager welcomed everyone to the meeting, introductions followed.

Elections:

Position of **Board Representative – Melynda Retallack** was nominated and voted in as TFT Board Representative

Position of **Co-President remains unfilled.**

Kerri asked if anyone would be interested in **arranging childcare** for TFT meetings. No one volunteered but Polly said she thought that Marcus and Zach will probably be glad to do the childcare for awhile.

TFT Grant Requests - +/- \$ 554 available:

1) Sweethome Morris (not present), a TCS parent, and 13 year yoga instructor, requested \$220 to finance a special yoga training aimed at how to teach yoga to street youth. Would like to teach to street youth as well as TCS students. **TFT funds NOT GRANTED.** Reasons: Implementation plan needs to be more developed, including getting staff and student "buy-in" for project as well as how it will directly benefit TCS community. Polly suggested it would be possible to get funding from classroom funds if multiple advisors supported such a program. Another concern was that a large percentage of TCS staff are quite accomplished at yoga and, if fact, teach it. Kerri and Polly will both communicate with Sweethome.

2) Jess Brooks, HS Advisor, (not present) repeat request for multi-function calculators which cost around \$ 900(see Oct 2008 minutes) for upper school students. **TFT funds GRANTED: \$ 554.** Reasons: useful for all students in upper school, much utilized.

3) Kurt Meier, Kirk Ellis & Billy Mens (not present), Advisors, repeat request for several hundred dollars for prizes for writing contest (see Oct 2008 minutes). **TFT funds NOT GRANTED.** Reasons: Idea needs more development, staff buy-in.

Kerri mentioned that idea had been discussed that TFT grant funds should be awarded before money is spent and not reimbursed. Applicants can be re-submitted at February meeting. Kerri updated grant info on website including forms in Word version.

Liaison Coordinator Report by Mary Drinkhouse

Liaisons—Every advising has liaison now. Each liaison is supposed to coordinate 2 gatherings during the school year but not usually happening. Billy's class has held a successful gathering already this year. Brian's advising will have one soon in multi-

purpose room w/dancing & potluck. Mary encourages parents to encourage liaisons and offer to help organize gatherings.

Dean B. asked if there was any way to let parents know who liaisons are. Concerned about his son's (Ken's) advising liaison. Is willing to take on some of liaison responsibilities.

Mary D. said she will send a liaison list to liaisons for proofing, then send it on to parents. She requested that people e-mail suggestions re: liaison communications, if they have them.

Renee D. suggested we ask parents to contact liaisons with changes in contact info rather than leave burden on liaisons.

Staff Appreciation Dinner- Michelle Hightower spearheaded last year's very successful event at Simpatica, Ben Dyer's restaurant. Paid +/- \$400 to Ben D. for food, gave presents, got wine donations from parents, childcare for teachers at TCS, Max S. played guitar. Dinner was held in Dec. Not sure where money came from. TFT would like to do same kind of event this year. Mary D. will call Ben D. and Michelle H. if they would be willing to work on event again this year, probably in Jan or Feb, 2009.

TFT Social Events

Kerri said that last year it was agreed that we should focus on holding smaller gatherings, and that we should continue this and also try to squeeze in some larger events.

Jenny Shotts, Advisor, has been working w/OMSI to get more science happening at TCS. An event idea: OMSI offered its facility to TCS either 12/1 or 12/8/08 for the reduced price of \$ 1,000, to hold a private, TCS family event.

Pro's of event idea: nice social event w/o lots of work from TCS volunteers, lots of space, possible potluck.

Con's of event idea: Held on Monday night, 6-9pm is late for many, lots of money to put on especially if not well-attended.

TFT decided to **not pursue this OMSI event**. Kerri will get back to Jenny w/ decision.

Auction & Fundraisers

New fundraising idea presented by Stephanie:

Would like to have a **week-long event in May, "Global Outlook"** (or something like that) w/guest speakers, exhibits, silent auction, food night, multi-cultural drama w/ IFCC as partners. Goal would be to showcase what school is about. Funds would be generated by paying for activities/classes. Board, staff, TFT and students would all have stake in success. Examples: Africa night, Japan night, project night, food & environment issues, international programs.

Agreed that event of this magnitude would need its own coordinator and that this year could be a sort of pilot project.

Brought up that **TCS Auction** (scaled down version) could take place at TCS the last day of week-long event. TCS Auction has made good and useful connections w/local

businesses and has made money so we don't want to let it go but could scale down. If Auction at TCS, we now have a certified kitchen.

Preliminary planning committee for weeklong event: Stephanie, Polly (liaison to staff), Kirk (music/theatre liaison). Kerri will e-mail James to see if he can meet.

Also, Stephanie has idea to publish a list of businesses that have supported TCS in the past so families can patronize the same.

Other Business

Financial Aid/College Entrance Process

Renee D. has ordered "Counselors & Mentors Handbook on Federal Student Aid" handbooks to help parents wade through financial aid and college entrance process as we have no school counselor. Wants to get group together to help each other learn the above. Ken and Polly could possibly lead some info sessions for parents and students.

Parent Evening – Family Health & Education

Ginny Elliott, parent, will hold a family health & education meeting in multi-purpose room at TCS on Tuesday, 11/11/08 from 7-8:00pm. There will be fun activities for kids. The goal of the meeting is to educate and to promote health products.

TCS Lecture Series

Last lecture by Randy Poush (sp?) was poorly attended. Stephanie would like to plan next evening with presentation on how to help each other in difficult times.

Snacks for Staff

Leigh Ann Kennedy has organized sign-ups for bringing snacks for staff including reminder calls. She cannot continue. Mary D. will find person to fill position.

Nina, advisor, was accidentally given \$ 150 in stead of \$ 75 for MS Dance last month. Extra \$ 75 taken from TFT Event Fund.

New Meeting Times

TFT voted to discontinue practice of alternating meeting times between Monday nights and Tuesday afternoons; instead, we will switch to meeting each month on the second Monday evening of the month at 6:30 pm.

Next TFT Meeting is Monday, December 8 @ 6:30pm