

Executive Board Meeting, December 3, 2007

Denny Chern-Kelk reported to the Board that Ms. Chory is interested in having a silent auction in the spring. There is a parent who works for the James Beard Foundation who knows how to organize silent auctions. Ms. Chory wanted there to be some kind of mention or announcement of an upcoming silent auction in the upcoming BPN. Discussion ensued about whether there should be any mention of a silent auction before the question of whether to have a silent auction is presented to the general membership. A Board member made a motion to present a motion at the next general meeting on December 20th for a vote on the possibility of having a silent auction. Another Board member expressed her concern about making any kind of a decision or having any kind of a vote before discussing the issue with the fundraising committee. She pointed out that Denny Chern-Kelk herself acknowledged that she has never organized a silent auction and expressed concern about the level of person power required for this kind of an event to be successful. After some back and forth it was established that all that the Board was being asked to do was to vote on presenting the idea to the members that could be done but would not be a binding commitment. The motion was seconded, voted upon and approved. It was noted that when the potential silent auction is presented at the next membership meeting that there will also be an indication of what the funds raised would be used for. Ms. Chory will be providing that information shortly.

The next topic that was discussed was the status of the staff list that was discussed at the previous meeting. Kirsten Cowal indicated that she had drawn up a list of staff positions for which names and contact information would be solicited after consulting with Nicky Kram Rosen. She further explained that she had presented the idea to Ms. Chory and that Ms. Rosa was following up on the request for information. Francesca Di Mauro showed the Board members a complete staff list of the elementary and intermediate schools that she received as a member of the school leadership team. This list appears to have most if not all of the information we are seeking for the envisioned staff directory. Kirsten Cowal will take the list and experiment with formatting and seek any information that is desired that is not already on the list (the name of the new occupational therapist, for example).

There was a general discussion about the flow of information from the administration, SLT and PA Executive Board to parents and the proper roles of the SLT and PA Executive Board vis a vis parental problems with the administration. This was partly in the context of one Board member's frustration with an email thread on the e-group in which some parents were suggesting that the SLT should take on certain roles, such as that of advocates for individual parents or small groups of parents with particular issues or problems. Luisa Diorio suggested putting a document holder in the vestibule to make PA and school related documents available on a routine basis to parents. Kathy Brito will seek approval from the administration and Luisa Diorio will buy the item once approval is obtained. Parents will be reminded that they are free to walk in and out of the vestibule and that information and literature will be available in that location. Denny Chern-Kelk has been taking outdated material down from the bulletin boards in the vestibule and the Board expressed its appreciation to her for performing this task.

The next topic of discussion was the wish list. The following issues were discussed or clarified and questions asked:

- The PA can't give money to teachers but could the PA give teachers gift certificates and then get receipts from the teachers?
- Could the wish list funds be divided by grade? Kathy will find out if we can make grants to grades
- The wish list has traditionally covered the costs of some trips, for example, the opera for 5th graders

The funding for the 8th grade trip is in jeopardy because a significant source of money has been eliminated. Last year, students raised \$3,000 by selling candy but this is not an option any longer because a chancellor's regulation was unwittingly being violated. Ms. Chory has declined the idea of a dance but Stevie Ray Dallimore is in discussion with Chris Jennings about a dance night in which he (Chris Jennings or Stevie Ray Dallimore or both?) will teach kids how to dance. Stevie Ray will confer with the fundraising committee on ideas for the 8th grade trip.

The question of gifts to teachers was then discussed. Francesca Di Mauro will try to clarify with the relevant authorities whether collective gifts can be given to teachers (she believes it is not allowed under the Chancellor's regulations) and whether money can be collected on school premises (she believes this not to be allowed either). Francesca Di Mauro noted that it is permissible to buy books for teachers at the Book Fair and that this option should be publicized.

A question was raised about the status of the question of whether the PA could give a check to Mr. Leoni to thank him for his help on movie night. Ms. Chory said no to this so a donation will be made to the music program instead.

Upcoming events and business was then discussed. It was noted that the dues/appeal letter needed to be done by December 6th in order to go out soon enough before the break. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for January 10th (a Thursday) because of the ELA exams scheduled for earlier in the week. Susan Saar wants to try to have Family Yoga Night on Friday in January to see if this will improve turnout. Approval from Ms. Chory is pending on this matter. There will be a bake sale after the Winter Music Festival and kindergarten, third and fourth grade parents are needed to sell the goods. It was noted that a flyer about the bake sale needs to go out on the 10th or 11th.