

PSO Meeting Minutes

9/27/2024

In attendance: Mary Tysor, Mercedes de Alvear, Devin Weiss, Douglas Haskovec, Naureen Brink, Nicole Luijer, Kelly Chang, Candace McCaddon, Edith Napoleon, Tracey Ledoux, Michelle Mayorga, Jesus Mayorga, Lyndsey Ray, Karine Schepers-Cheng, Adam Bayer, Hailey Panneton, Melissa Lopez, Kelley Bruso, Catherine Barber

- Welcome and reading of mission (8:15) - Karine
- Opening prayer - Catherine
- Treasurer's report - Candace
 - Budget for the year: \$4000
 - Expenditures to date: \$346
- PSO Committee reports
 - Potlucks - enjoyable, somewhat less attendance at some of the potlucks.
 - Question about whether communication could happen earlier or schedule potlucks later (extending later into October). However, there are challenges with both of these options; we may keep things as-is in terms of the timeframe.
 - Friday evenings are difficult for most people; omit in the future.
 - Guidance from school is that potlucks shouldn't be exclusively catered; parents should have the option of bringing a dish rather than being charged to attend. There is flexibility so that attendees can purchase a dish, cook something, or group together to cater some of the food.
 - It is important that hosts not be expected to spend a lot of money on the event. The host's primary role is to provide the location.
 - If it is difficult to find a host family, explore options for alternate locations (e.g., meeting at a park).
 - Friends of the Garden - Devin, Adam
 - October 11, after drop-off: Planting new plants around campus.
 - October 16, 8-9:30: Brad Philips will speak about trees on campus.
 - October 19, 9-11: Fall Gardening Day.
 - November 1, 8:30-11: Tour of Nature's Way resources; eco-conscious solutions to gardening.
 - TBD; Talk about well-being and the environment.
 - 4-H is currently active; parent volunteers are needed. January 25: Saving wildlife day in collaboration with Houston Zoo; open to 4-H participants, possibly broader community (TBD).
 - Friends of the Arts - Candace
 - October 5: Choir event at "Thousand lights for peace," Eternal Gandhi Museum
 - Faculty and Staff Appreciation - Mary
 - Breakfast on September 25 was a great success, with very positive feedback.

- Luncheon will be the last day of school in May. Goal is to make the event wonderful and joyful despite the challenges of timing.
 - Works of Mercy - Mary
 - Casa de Esperanza PJ drive is coming up in November/December.
 - Volunteers should sign up to help wrap pajamas.
 - Friends of Athletics - Jesus
 - Signup for parent volunteers was sent through Teamsnap.
 - Saturday soccer needs volunteers, and AC/high school students are invited to volunteer.
 - This activity will start in January. Dates will be decided upon and announced soon to ensure maximum attendance.
 - Jesus will request the equipment the day before for a timely start.
 - Book club - Edith, Hailey
 - First meeting about Maria Montessori's life went very well.
 - November 22: Next meeting; focused on Montessori and adolescence. Book TBD soon.
 - Survey indicated that Montessori education and adolescence and technology and teens were the topics of most interest.
 - Friends of the Library
 - Scholastic will be the vendor for the book fair - December 2-6.
- New business
 - Gala - Nicole
 - Beneficiary of this year's gala is the gym!
 - October 7: Meeting for anyone who is interested in volunteering and/or learning more about the gala.
 - February 1: Kick-off event; details to follow.
 - February 28: Deadline to turn in auction items.
 - April 5: Event!
 - Currently looking for a band. If anyone has suggestions for bands within the event budget, reach out.
 - If anyone has ideas for auction items, reach out to Nicole and Katie. Highly desirable silent auction items are experiences (gift cards, services, etc.), art, jewelry. This year, there will be an emphasis on outstanding individual items (vs. bundles of items).
 - For live auction, big tickets include vacation rentals.
 - Also looking for "buy it now" items (tickets to experiences, dinners, etc.).
 - Bidding will happen on an app. This opens the silent auction to people who cannot attend the gala.
- Old business
 - Be sure to review the weekly updates (including videos) on the Annual Fund for information on what the funds are spent on.
- Adjournment (9:45 a.m.) - Karine

Minutes submitted by Catherine Barber, PSO Secretary