



December 17, 2024

Attendees: Sarah Sirna, Jeff Gustafson, Nicole Nejezchleba, Ashley Crist, Stephanie Woodstrom, Kristen Coward, Kayla Lande, Laura Richardson, Kali Sundquist, Michele Ewen, Steph Berner, Tara Pitkin, Calida Fuerst, Cindy Address

Absent Board Members: Sarah Wexler

Topic	Discussion Items, Notes and Action Items
Call to order and review of minutes (Sarah S)	<u>November 2024</u> - Motion to approve seconded and carried - Stephanie W to post to website
Minnewashta gala (Kayla and Laura)	- Kayla re-presented the proposal for a gala event at Hazeltine that will mirror past events by each Minnetonka school before they were replaced by Dreammakers. The goals for the gala are: - Engage more families in community-building. This is the main focus for this inaugural event. - Diversify fundraising so that we can be less reliant on Boosterthon. This year, it will not be a fundraising-focused event, but it may eventually be a new avenue for fundraising. - Discussion notes: - In the event of a cancellation, tickets would be refunded and non-refundable deposits would come out of PTO funds. - If we don't reach the \$8k food and beverage minimum, the difference would be paid by PTO. - A question was asked about turnout for Deeptaven's successful event - Date choices have been offered and there's an evenly split preference between April 11 and April 25 - Board members generally agreed on opening the invitation to staff. - A list at the door would ensure people don't just show up and get a meal without paying in advance. However, the board is open to last minute attendees being able to purchase drinks and desserts on site. This might also be a preferred option for families that don't want to pay the full price. - Other venue options explored included Lafayette Club, Camp Fire, Bavaria Downs, and the Arboretum. The \$2000 venue fee was standard. - Roughly 75 people voted for each of the date options. Board assumes that means at least 75 people would attend with a plus-one helping meet the minimum headcount to break even.

	- For future consideration, the Shorewood Community Center gives a 50% discount to nonprofits and holds 140 capacity; would need to have catered appetizers or food trucks, and hire a bartender and police officer - Initial reactions - The board was generally positive about the enthusiasm and energy around this event. Many suggested we should try it and adjust based on turnout and feedback. - Some feel the ticket price is too high and limits many families from participating - Many agreed we need an additional event at a lower price point, and that doing both events would be a good idea. - A concerns was raised around the busy calendar of events in April - Concerns were raised about the PTO absorbing any costs and taking funds away from other things - A suggestion was made to call this a parents night out instead of a community-building event since it's not accessible to all.
President's update (Sarah and Laura)	Membership Toolkit Verification Update - Sarah and Cindy discussed options for streamlining signups with the district. Ultimate decision is that new families need to create their own accounts but the PTO is now allowed to add students' teacher assignments.
	Update on Grounds Improvement Plans (Shade Trees) - Buildings and Grounds has officially shut down the shade trees project. The \$20k allocated for shade trees will be reallocated to other grounds projects. - Alternative options include the hammock garden (which the PTO approved last year), other courtyard projects, improving the property's connection to the bike path, and upgrading the basketball hoops/court. - Next step is to request a meeting with Buildings and Grounds and ask about results to the grounds survey from May. - Sarah and Laura will take next steps to coordinate the meeting - Nicole volunteered to help Calida with the hammock garden - Nicole will revive the survey she developed last year - Cindy is willing to deliver student letters to Buildings and Grounds about the missing playground equipment.
Treasurer update (Kristen)	Monthly Update - November Treasurer Report - We have received an invoice from the district office for printing services but nobody on the board has used it; Sarah will call the district office to clarify. - Enrichment ordering and payments have been going very smoothly this year.
Fundraising update (Steph B)	Code Ninjas - Last event didn't have a good turnout which we attribute to not distributing printed flyers this time
	Davanni's Give-Back Day - On March 27, Davanni's will give Minnewashta 20% of sales - Patrons must mention Minnewashta or bring in a flyer

	Tequila Butcher - Tequila Butcher offered to donate 15% of sales for a specific date. Targeting a June date given the restaurant's patio seating. - Patrons need to mention Minnewashta or bring in a flyer - Note that we can't advertise anything with the word "Tequila" via school-related communication channels.
Enrichment update (Jeff and Ashley)	<u>Room Drop: Presentation</u> - Ashley created a fun, attention-grabbing room drop to encourage more enrichment requests. Two new requests have come in since.
	Music Team - Mrs. Asche requested \$46.87 for the state choir contribution - Motion to approve seconded and carried
	Gym Team - Mrs. Becher requested \$671 for more blaze pods to be used by full PE team - Motion to approve seconded and carried
Event updates (Event chairs)	Many Hands Many Meals (Sarah) - Recommendation for future event: include a video or have MHMM give a brief introduction to help kids better understand the cause.
	Minnewashta Gala (Sarah S and Kayla) - See detailed discussion notes above above - Board voted on the motion to approve the event as outlined in Kayla's proposal including the funds for the Hazeltine deposit. - With 10 "yes" votes and 2 "no" votes, the motion passed. - Kayla to facilitate the deposit.
	Parent's Night Out at Country Club Lanes (Steph B) - Country Club Lanes will charge \$859 to reserve the entire space for 2 hours on a Friday or Saturday. Capacity is 120. - While PTO would front the cost, parents would purchase tickets for ~\$10 to fund this event. - Leagues are done at the end of April so a May date would work well - We would create a sign up to reserve tickets and lane time using Membership Toolkit - Steph will come up with a date by the next meeting and will get a final budget for food; board will then vote to approve the funds for a deposit
	Family Movie Night (Kali) - Kali leading movie night this year. Movie to be selected.
	Timberwolves (Sarah) - Over 100 tickets sold so far; ticket link is still live

	Dudes and Donuts (Steph B.) - January 25 tentative date pending facilities confirmation - Caribou willing to provide coffee and cacao for ~\$85 - Steph planning to reach out to Orion donuts for contribution - Activity ideas include hot wheels races and craft kits
	Imagination Fair (Sarah) - Fair will be a one-day event this year - Sarah has enlisted two event volunteers this year - Better communication needed this year about dinner included for families on the setup night
Helpful Documents	- Event Dates - Board Contacts
Topics for Next Month's Meeting	-