



February 18, 2025

Attendees: Sarah Sirna, Jeff Gustafson, Nicole Nejezchleba, Stephanie Woodstrom, Steph Berner, Ashley Crist, Kayla Lande, Calida Fuerst, Chelsea Eernisse, Elise Robertson, Melanie Mozingo, Jenny Van Aalsburg

Absent Board Members: Laura Richardson, Kali Sundquist, Sarah Wexler, Kristen Coward, Tara Pitkin, Michele Ewen

Topic	Discussion Items, Notes and Action Items
Call to order (Sarah)	
Courtyard update (Melanie, Calida, Nicole and Sarah)	- After many months of discussions, it's been decided by Facilities that shade trees cannot be placed around the playground. We have pivoted to using the funds for other outdoor space improvements: - Courtyard seating - Instead of hammocks as previously discussed—which require a lot of labor and maintenance—we found a good deal and purchased 30 all-weather chairs. We will recruit volunteers to assemble the chairs when the weather improves. - Art installations - Melanie Mozingo presented her ideas for bringing art into the space in a way that meets other sensory, social/emotional and educational needs of the students. Melanie has been exploring ideas with local artist Bruce Stillman from Big Stone Mini Golf Course. Additional ideas included creating four distinct zones to represent the different types of art spaces (“sandbox spaces,” “campfire spaces,” “mountaintop spaces,” and “cave spaces”), chalkboards, water painting, incorporating a service project. - Melanie will continue her discussions with Bruce and, as/when appropriate, she will reach out to families who might be able to supply materials (Nitz family members who work for a tree trimming company; Ramy family who may have access to cuts of wood or metal)
Approve minutes (Sarah, Steph W)	<u>December meeting minutes</u> - Motion to approve seconded and carried
	<u>January meeting minutes</u> - Motion to approve seconded and carried - Stephanie W to post to website

Enrichment requests (Jeff)	<u>February Requests</u>
	First grade team: Science Crew in-school field trip - Requesting \$1,035 (\$104 over their budget of \$931) for an in-school field trip with the Science Crew on the subject of sound to benefit all first grade students. - Follow up to make a connection with music specials that week; would also want feedback from the first grade team to see if there is appropriate curriculum for other grades in the future - Motion to approve seconded and carried
	Third grade team: Flocabulary - Requesting \$138 for a subscription to Flocabulary for all third grade English students - Follow up to connect Angie Meagher with Lisa McHugh to see if it can also be used for the Spanish students in their English classes - Motion to approve seconded and carried
	High potential team: Young Authors Conference - Requesting an additional ~\$940 for the \$1,320 fees (\$375 is already reserved in our budget) for a field trip to the young authors conference for fifth grade high potential students (~25 students). - We would like to explore ways to bring elements of this experience in house for all students. Chelsea knows a local author, Nina Hamza, who might be willing to speak to students. Red Balloon and The Loft are other resources of authors we can approach to ask about a presentation. - Follow up to find out if this will be the necessary budget going forward and if we should adjust the line item going forward. - Motion to approve seconded and carried
	Supply requests - Second grade teachers using their joint budget
	Ongoing communication - Jeff continuing to send a drip of messages
Principal update (Jenny Van Aalsburg)	Recent school highlights - Klondike Dog Derby visited for a second time; the 30-minute presentation is free of charge and covers the mushing process, the clothing needed, the dogs' roles, and information about the dogs. - Valentine Parties included a lot of help from the PTO and room parents - Imagination Fair was a huge success - The formal introduction presentation helped garner more interest and will be used again next year - Button contest was very popular - Next year we would like to host this in the West Gym to accommodate the growing interest. We also might need more volunteers to get the tables set up in advance.

	Be Seen, Be Heard will start next week
	Booking event spaces - Cindy and Jenny would like to be involved in booking spaces for our planned events next year
	Be Seen, Be Heard - Lessons will start next week. - This will be the fourth year doing this program
	Artists in Residence - Two new artists—an African dancer and drummer from McPhail School of Music—are scheduled to participate in music rotations March 25-27 - Funds from the trust will be used to pay for this.
Events (Event chairs)	Staff appreciation - Planning underway
	Grandfriends Day , April 14 and 27, 9:30 to 10:30 - Steph W to create a volunteer sign up for check in from 9 to 10 am.
	Parents Night Out , May 9 (Steph B) - Event is confirmed for Friday, May 9 from 7 to 9; Bowling slots are 1 hour (60 people at one time) but capacity allows parents to stay the full time - Steph B will also ask CC Lanes when we can arrive for setup - Total cost for the event including bowling, food, supplies, etc. will be ~\$1800; Joey Nova is supplying pizza; Will purchase salads from Costco; Excelsior Brewery will sponsor the food bringing the event cost down. - Next steps include getting a ticket website up to start selling tickets for \$15 - Steph B will ask Clear Springs PTO how they run their bowling night - Minnetonka table cloths are available to use - Board action: If you are interested in joining a small committee to help Steph plan and execute this event, please reach out to her.
	Carnival , May 30 (Laura) - City permits have been pulled.
	Gala , Fall 2025 (Kayla) - Will start planning the event as a welcome back and kickoff. This will help families of younger students and families new to Minnewashta get to know each other sooner. - If we work through one of the Minnewashta families that are members of Hazeltine, we can eliminate the \$2000 fee. - A parent donation of \$1000 was given to use specifically for this event. - Next step is to confirm a date. Considerations: 10/3 will be Boosterthon; 10/10 will be conferences; 10/16-10/17 will be MEA

Treasurer update (Kristen)	January budget update - We are currently on pace to spend our budget this year, as long as enrichment requests continue to come in
Tech safety efforts	Digital safety pilot event - In collaboration with My Health, we are testing a new event and messaging around digital safety with a smaller group of families to get feedback and understand if/how to broaden in the future. - Steph W to create a sign up for families on Membership Toolkit
	Wait until 8th effort - Chelsea Eernisse and Elise Robertson shared information about their effort to raise awareness about the “Wait until 8th” pledge and resources available at waituntil8th.org. - They are looking for insight on how they can plug into school and PTO sponsored efforts such as including blurbs in our communication and setting up booths at events/fairs/carnivals - Board review the website and prepare to discuss at next month’s meeting.
Fundraising (Steph B)	Code Ninjas - Due to staffing issues, Code Ninjas is unable to host any more Parents Night Out events for now.
	Driven Coffee - Coffee company reached out about an online coffee sales opportunity; at this time, PTO is not interested in these opportunities
	Spirit Gear MN - Elsa presented an idea about creating gear as a fundraising opportunity - Spirit Gear is already one of the preferred vendors for Tonka Pride so there isn’t a need for this fundraising avenue at this time.
	Davanni’s Fundraiser, March 27 - March 27, from 4 to 8 pm. Davanni’s Minnetonka will donate 20% of sales during this time if you mention Minnewashta
Resources	- Event Dates - Board Contacts