

Parents' Organization Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2010

List of Meeting Attendees:

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| Louis Bosse | Madelyn Bosse | Lani O'Sullivan |
| Daniela Smoeanu | Marisol Campos | Luis Campos |
| Amy Cassidy | James Womack | Mary Womack |
| Jim Stevens | Bridget Tomlinson | Cindy Oldham |
| Rosanne Fertitta | Anu Chafufale | Hwan Young Leong |
| Nicholas Leong | Viula Torgerson | Kim Lopez |
| Heather Trachtenberg | Martha Dancy | Clay Dancy |
| Nancy Sims | Kristen Wright | Denise Welling |
| Diane Koonce | Katherine Bodron | Sherry Herron |

1. Welcome: Parents' Organization President, Cindy Oldham, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all attendees for making time in their schedules for an evening meeting.

2. Minutes from September 15, 2010 Meeting: Katherine Bodron read the minutes from the meeting September 15, 2010 Parents' Organization Meeting and they were approved.

3. Treasurer Report: Diane Koonce reported that we have a little over \$18,000 in the operations budget. She reported that underwriting for the upcoming chili cook-off has been very generous to date.

4. Charleston Wraps Report: Kristen Wright reported that the order period for Charleston Wraps is officially over. However, people may still order online for the next 6 – 8 weeks. The orders should be delivered right before Thanksgiving. The children benefit directly from this fundraiser.

5. Flower Power: Rochelle Lootens reported that flower power profits also benefits the classrooms directly. She showed parents a sample wreath from Mickman's. She reported that flower power packets have been distributed, one per family. The deadline for orders is October 18. Extra forms are available in the office. Delivery will be the week after Thanksgiving. Diane Koonce pointed out that direct ship items are great gifts for relatives & friends. Kristen Wright added that these make great office gifts as well.

6. Chili Cook-off: Bridget Tomlinson updated everyone about the upcoming chili cook-off scheduled for Sunday, October 24. This event is a longstanding tradition at SOTW. It includes a haunted garden, face & hair painting, early childhood area, big kid area, haunted house along with great chili prepared by parent volunteers, house chili, hot dogs, desserts and more. She asked for

parent volunteers to cook chili for the three categories: best vegetarian, traditional & most unique. She pointed out that there are also prizes for best display and a prize for most popular chili decided by popular vote. She also announced that the three classes with the greatest percentage of parental participation would receive monetary prizes for their classrooms of \$100, \$75 & \$50 (1st, 2nd & 3rd places). The Talent Show is open to all students from Early Childhood through Middle School. Volunteers are needed to start setting up at 9am the day of the event and parents need to help. She also asked for parents to volunteer to man a _ hour shift at an inflatable with the high school students. Volunteers are needed to help with preparations on Wednesday, October 20 after drop off. She encouraged parents to fill out and return the volunteer form sent out the previous week.

Bridget pointed out that underwriting is needed to help pay for the various costs associated with the event including the inflatable rentals, food and high school students.

Kristen Wright pointed out that by opening our event only to the SOTW community children are safer than if the event were open to the general public. She also pointed out that the admission price is all-inclusive except for the price of raffle tickets. Tickets at presale cost only \$8 & \$10 and are \$10 & \$12 the day of the event. A presale form will be going home with students on Monday, October 13.

7. Sniffles, Coughs, Sore Throat & Fever Presentation: was given by Kristen Wright a pediatric nurse practitioner at Texas Children's Hospital. She gave an overview of when it is acceptable to send children with minor symptoms to school and when children should be kept home. She emphasized that at times a student should be kept home even when they are improving in order to prevent relapses and avoid spreading illness to other children. Children with fevers should not return to school until they are fever free for 24 without the aid of medications such as Tylenol, Motrin, etc. Be considerate of other families and staff. Do not dose your child to mask symptoms then send them to school. A rule of thumb for deciding whether to send your child to school is whether their symptoms will interfere with their ability to learn and participate in school activities. Kristen emphasized the importance of hand washing to prevent the spread of illness, especially before eating.

Kristin pointed out that this year's flu shot is a combination of the regular flu shot & the H1N1 shot. She said the mist version is more effective than the injection.

8. Report from Sherry Herron: She feels we need to refocus on the fact we are a Montessori school. The focus is on meeting the needs of the child. Four child development principles used in Montessori education include:

1. Physical and language development follow reasonable, predictable patterns. This is true throughout the world.
2. Children learn in the same order. Skills build upon each other.
3. Children never learn at the same rate. A child might pick one new skill quickly but take longer with another.
4. Growth is uneven. Spurts of growth are followed by periods of consolidation. Shifting back and forth is normal.

Mrs. Herron asked parents if they had questions about the school. As a result she announced that all operating costs are covered by tuition. P.O. funds further enrich classrooms. She said the school would be willing to support a Montessori based parenting class if parents are interested. Currently they are not being held now due to past poor parent participation. She explained the Montessori Journey previously offered to parents. They are considering offering a one-day class unlike the previous two-day events to encourage better participation. She is willing to consider a group for middle school parents as well since interest seems to be present.

Mrs. Herron pointed out that the information about child illness is found in the parent handbooks to aid parents deciding whether they should keep their child home. A discussion about adolescents pointed out that they change greatly from hour to hour physically as well as emotionally. She supports a request for Dr. Coe to speak to parents about adolescents again since parents pick up new information each time they hear her speak.

When asked about sharing e-mail addresses she pointed out that the school does not provide this information to other parents. This is done to protect parents' privacy and to protect them from being spammed by other parents. She said the school-wide directories should be completed soon but had been delayed because of Sarah's daughter's accident.

9. November Parents' Organization Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 3, 2010.