

PO Meeting
Minutes

January 7, 2009 8:45am

Attendees: Candace Berry, Susan Hart, Tara Furze, Leigh Matthews, Kelley Wiley, Joanne Andruscavage, Therisa Pienaar, Will Hicks, Justine Way, Karen Durovich, Corey Alicks

Minutes: December minutes were passed pending minor change.

REPORTS:

Volunteer Coordinator: Candace Arnold our new volunteer coordinator will obtain and organize an up-to-date parent volunteer list, receive detailed volunteer requests from event leaders and pass requests onto those that specifically volunteered for jobs that match the requirements. She will also follow-up with leader and volunteers on event success. She plans to visit each class at a class parent meeting in the up-coming months to introduce herself and gather volunteer info. She is asking that groups in need of volunteers please contact her with specific info regarding volunteer needs.

Treasurer: PO dues came in so the available balance is \$7,181.69.

Heads: In January, Heads assisted the faculty and outreach with a very successful Waldorf Education Day. This is an event that is sponsored by the faculty, but for the past several years, Heads has assisted with logistics of the day. This semester we are co-sponsoring with the Center for Anthroposophy several talks at EWS. First is Friday, March 13th, a talk by Michael Howard entitled, "The Art of Social and Ecological Sustainability"; second is Friday April 24th, "Eurythmy" by Cezary Ciaglo; and Finally, we are thrilled to welcome back Douglas Gerwin for a Friday night, May 1st talk entitled, "Waldorf Education - And Who Shall Teach the Teachers?"

Heads also continues to be closely involved with the Social Inclusion process that was made possible by the PO. There is great reason for the PO to feel immensely pleased about this as Social Inclusion is a huge contribution to the school and the year so far - by all accounts - has been very successful. The 9th-11th grade group of students who make up the SAC (student action group), have been meeting and training all year, and since January have been regularly coming down the hill to hang out with their "buddy classes" in either handwork, games, main lesson or playground time. They are building relationships and observing dynamics. This month they will begin presenting skits to the children with scenes in which childhood "just joking" crossed the line into teasing, bullying or exclusion. They will facilitate a conversation after the skits about where they think the line was crossed to begin to raise awareness about these often-blurry distinctions. Skits and conversations will be facilitated with the support of the faculty and be tailored to the age of the class being addressed. Heads also has plans, in conjunction with the Social Inclusion Coordinator's Group parent volunteers, to organize a study group for parents based on some articles recommended by Kim John Payne, our social inclusion consultant. Stay tuned for more information on these groups.

It soon will be time for Heads to begin planning the parent education talks for next year. If you are interested in being a part of this very fun and creative process, please contact Merideth Tomlinson

or Rachel Larsen. Also, if you are interested in being more involved with the Social Inclusion process, contact Merideth Tomlinson.

Hearts: Will hold a meeting /tea on January 26 in the woodland shop after drop off. Alyson and Laura are looking to build the ranks and find volunteers willing to take on more projects. Candace Arnold will come to talk about her role as volunteer Coordinator.

Hands: Gardening Day is on Wednesdays from 12:30 to pick up. This has been a big success but Hands is still looking for volunteers.

Board: The board and college meet on Jan. 22nd. They hope to talk in more detail about long range planning. Feb. 7 is full board meeting and the first 15 minutes is open mic. Accreditation task force is going to spend the springtime making a concerted effort to educate the community on what is involved. Be on the lookout for ways to get involved in the long range planning and accreditation.

Development: Processed all the donations received before the break will report the numbers later. They held a phone-a-thon in December that was successful and a good experience. Grandparent's day is coming up and development is considering changing how it's done.

Administration: The Internet and email has been down for the past 3 weeks and they are still down. We are working on getting it back up and running soon. Re-enrollment is the main focus and the deadlines are moved up to work into the accreditation process. Choosing an auditor for the school next week to start in the springtime. Mr. Benoit is no longer with the school. The plan is in process for covering the Practical Arts classes and as we know more information we will let the community know. Also looking for a 1st grade teacher, and other positions that are on our school website. The Woodland Shop is remaining open in Carr Mill through February and the board has put together a task force to see if it should continue to be on campus or off campus and what is viable.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Question about the coffee table in the mornings at lower school – it's ready to go but we need 10 volunteers to make it work and are only at about 5 at the moment.

How did the 3 sub groups of the PO (Heads, Hearts, Hands) get formed? Katie Reilly was one of the founding members and thought through the structure, so 15 years?

Renewal's for the new families are still happening? Yes. There is interest in getting it for the whole school – looking at possibilities for covering those costs.

Is the Carr Mill mall Woodland Shop bringing in admission's for our school? There are cards for customers/visitors to fill out reporting different interests.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Guinan and Kelley Wiley