

Emerson Waldorf School Parent Organization

Minutes

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

Attendees: Kim Anderson, Justine Way, Leigh Matthews, Tara Furze, Joanne Dahill, Erin Hoeg, Peter Lie-Nielson, Will Hicks, Mary Deutsch, Joanne Andruscavage, Therisa Pienaar, Kelley Wiley, Robin Verhoeven, Christina Passanisi, Karen Durovich, Candace Arnold-Berry and Colleen McCarron-Case.

October Minutes: Approved without corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Therisa Pienaar reported that income expenditure has a negative because of the PO's commitment to Kim Payne's Social Inclusion program. Restricted funds from the Anthroposophical Education fund was used to help pay for the Kim Payne. The money will be paid back this school year 08-09 with Scrip monies. The EWS High School has spent their allotted \$2000 for furniture and has used the \$800 allotted for the PA system on more furniture because they were able to get a PA system donated.

Heads: – No representative - no report

Hearts: – No representative – no report

Hands: Barbara Holloway reports that the last couple of gardening slots at the nursery and planted the bed in the front and along the path. (See written report for full details). This Wednesday's gardening will begin on the Nursery path and continue on. Need help with pond and shell garden – or adopting it.

Board Report: Leigh Matthews reports that there is an All-School AWSNA/WEANC meeting tonight in the Richards Room at 7pm. The Board will talk about what is happening this year at EWS in the first part of the meeting and the second part will be dedicated to voting in the parent reps to the board. EWS Board meetings are now opened up to the community for "Open Mic" starting about 8:20am. The Board is looking forward to the November 13 AWSNA leadership meeting/dinner. During this time, the Board hopes to begin creating a strategic plan for the school. There will be opportunities for the community/parents to be a part of this plan. The Board is also working on the accreditation process with Joanne Andruscavage.

College Report: – No representative – no report

Development Committee: Justine Way reports that Annual Giving is currently at around \$20K. Conscious Conversations are still happening. Justine still needs more people to help with this process. Holiday Faire postcards and posters are ready and going out. Looking for help to get the buzz and excitement about Holiday Faire and still need more people to do the work.

Administration Report: Joanne Andruscavage is working hard on the school's accreditation process. Currently a an accountant is looking at the finances getting ready for the audit. The Woodland Shop will be a strong presence in the main public at Carr Mill Mall and is a wonderful opportunity as an enrollment tool, outreach tool, and positive image in the community. Christina Passanissi spearheaded this drive and found the location with a great rate. The move of the shop will be for November & December. The Woodland Shop will remain open on campus with limited inventory and hours while it is also at Carr Mill Mall. Now we need volunteers for packing, moving, unpacking and staff the store in Carr Mill. The Annual Report will be available tonight at the All-School meeting and will also be available on our website. The DVD about our school will also be available at the All-School meeting tonight.

Announcements:

The PO is still looking for someone to take on the Barnes & Noble fundraiser. Justine will take on running a fundraiser through The Regulator bookstore in Durham possibly down the line. – Robin Verhoeven has offered

to do it. A suggestion was made that high schoolers, possibly juniors, could be utilized to help out with this event.

There will be an EWS Toy drive. Details to come.

Shannon Wiley will be spearheading a canned food drive.

Peter Moyers is heading up a "Change for change" coat and blanket drive.

Morning Coffee Sales are slowly getting on the way. Candace Arnold has tentatively volunteered to run it.

Scrip: With the school's accreditation process underway, fund raising efforts and financial accounts need to be consolidated and run through the administration. The school operates on less than a bare-bones budget and we are missing parts of Waldorf education in our school. A joint meeting was held with the board, faculty, administration & PO officers brainstorming and prioritizing what the bottom line needs of the school are –the results of that day will be discussed at the All-School meeting tonight at 7pm. Five major financial priorities are at the top: 1. Professional development \$ for faculty & administrative staff (\$1,000 at the moment); 2. The school needs a remedial teacher; 3. The school needs a Eurythmy teacher; 4. Landscaping & beautification of the grounds. Any money being raised for the school should go to these priorities first.

Fundraising suggestion: raise money by raffling off unused frequent flyer miles donated by parents.

The PO will no longer have a bank account but will have a line item in the school budget to keep track of income and outgo.

The vision for the PO is not to be a money making engine but as the Heads, Hearts & Hands of the school. However, Heads, Hands and Hearts might also generate their own funds to subsidize their budgets. For the PO to really thrive, it must strengthen the volunteer base and support.

Will Hicks motioned to give over the Scrip funds and management to the Administration as of January 1, 2009. Erin Hoeg seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Kelley Wiley and Laura Guinan