

TEP Minutes

13 February 2023/ 6-8 PM/ campus room 14

Attendees

Bridget Cook, Peter Samson, Molly Lynn, Lauren Farber, Katie Schwipper, Andrea Shreeman , Isabelle Miller, Kathleen Beegle, Aaron Zeri, Danita , Kevin Kausebaum, Kelly Rockwell, Ceiri Torjussen

Agenda

- **Budget Overview**
 - Giving fund behind 30k
 - Low participation rate
 - We need parents to understand for next year that we depend on this money for enrichment classes and aides
 - Different tactics for promoting awareness discussed, such as publishing “thank you” lists on Parent Square of all who donated, sending out messages from room parents citing participation rates, or emailing those who haven’t donated
 - Don’t want to be too shaming, focus on participation not amount
 - Pete will draft gentle email reminder for parents
 - Stage curtain replacement motion passed
 - Teacher classroom requests update (Kevin)
 - Still collecting information
 - Some have asked for a lot, others nothing at all

- **Vapa Overview**
 - TECS Topanga Days parade float, \$260 last year (Andrea)
 - Possible orchestra participation brought up
 - Concern over instrument safety
 - Working on theme, ancient Egypt mentioned
 - Funding requested and agreed upon
 - Update on art show (Stephanie, on telephone)
 - Gallery space for \$1800, but owner agreed that if we don’t make the money we won’t have to pay it all – nonetheless, it’s likely that everything made would go to her
 - Needs volunteer for art setup, and to facilitate the 2 days of shows, and tear down

- Not available to remain up in gallery beyond the 2 days
- Option to charge for event, contribution bowl, or sell concessions
- Work with Endless Color for percentage of food sales
- Could sell kids' artwork, but somehow keep this info from the kids to avoid hurt feelings?
- Make greeting cards of some of the art to sell
- Substantial concern remains amongst some members who feel the space is too expensive to justify, and that the library would make a better, much cheaper, location so that funds could be raised instead of only spent
 - Discussion on this event not being a fundraiser, but rather a "fun-raiser" event
 - TEP normally does not get involved with details of fundraising events as far as how they reach their fundraising goals, this is for the committee who plans and delivers the event
- Update on Variety Show (Stephanie)
 - Request for names of other parents who might be willing to run concessions (otherwise Bridget will run this)
 - Head mics are available, but we need someone to volunteer to run sound

● Fundraiser Updates

- Spring gala (Danita)
 - April 29th available for TCC, 1k
 - Option for class baskets to be sold at silent auction, or art projects
 - Still finalizing location, catering, theme, etc.
- Online auction (Kathleen)
 - Call out for parents to volunteer services, airbnb rentals, etc.
 - Sometime in mid-May, open for 2 weeks
 - Looking for board members to approach local businesses
- Spell-a-thon (Katie)
 - Using 99pledges platform
 - Sending email out to teachers to see when they prefer this to be held
- Track and Field day, last week in June (Pete)
 - TCC location option
 - Kevin expressed a lot of concerns about logistics, and strongly prefers on-campus (upper blacktop), reports teachers prefer on-campus as well
 - Could we advocate during the next faculty meeting for teachers to consider off-site location?
 - Option for event to be held after school, but this would not be inclusive to all children

- Heartfelt argument made for maintaining the past tradition of holding this event on an offsite green space
 - Many kids haven't ridden a school bus or gone on a field trip, would be fun and exciting
 - Safer on grass ("field" part of Track and Field)
 - Lovely location, and long standing tradition
 - Residual fears over difficulty of keeping track of kids
 - District appointed aides couldn't come
 - Lack of clarity over which aides these are exactly
 - Will return to this discussion after next round of staff and leadership meetings

- **Science Committee Update (Molly)**

- Garden project going well
 - Need more parent volunteers
 - Should specify to parents that volunteer position doesn't have to be ongoing
 - Will generate list of materials needed for donation
- Science Fair
 - Alex Schwipper has volunteered to organize
 - Additional \$150 funding requested
- Composting program upcoming
 - Great way to utilize cafeteria food waste
- Native plant project
 - Need someone to volunteer to water weekly
- Tide pool event April 1, on weekend
- Star gazing opportunity upcoming, early spring
- Science Day April 21, Kelly leading
 - \$2500 requested
 - Should cover cost to transport by bus 120 5th grade students from Heart Street
 - Earthquake simulator truck, other things like this
 - Opportunities for all classes to experience during lunchtime
 - Kevin offered to request funding from district West
 - involving Mr. E as part of planning
 - 20k money grant asked to be used towards Science Day, some ambiguity here (need to specify whether this funding is conditional on a certain event, other obligations)
 - By-law amendment proposed to earmark money beyond the \$1200 Giving Fund request, rejected

- Discussion on whether to vote on funding today
 - Point made that funding should be established earlier in the year in general
 - Kelly applied for additional grant from CA water and power

 - **Notice Board (Belle)**
 - notice board outside of Weisberg's recruited for TEP announcements, photos

 - **CSR (class-size reduction teacher) issue**
 - Kevin explained:
 - forecast, and how budget details are slowly trickling in
 - Explanation of grade span student to teacher ratio, and different ratios for K-3, 4-5
 - he doesn't think the school can handle half the salary as in past years, due to coordinator position using money which used to be available
 - Discussion on why this Coordinator position is necessary to the school
 - Concern from several TEP members about gifted and talented services being absent, considering that these services are meant to be provided by this position
 - Frustration expressed by TEP members that CSR-enabled smaller classes that might facilitate advanced instruction for gifted students are out of reach due to hire of Coordinator, leaving gifted and talented kids to fall through the cracks
 - Several TEP members mentioned knowing of parents of gifted students that are considering leaving the school due to this failure to provide opportunities to our gifted and talented students
 - What is the point in identifying GATE students, if no instruction is available?
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- **Any other business:**
 - How are class aides allocated?
 - Planet Bravo issue, problem of younger grades not learning any technology skills whatsoever, just playing games on ipad
 - Music class, teachers discussing on when this could be scheduled

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM, minutes recorded by Katie Schwipper

Next Meeting: March 8, 2022/ 6-8PM/ Room 14

- Will discuss TEP board succession plan
- Invite room parents