

Golda Meir School

Meeting Minutes of the PTO

September 23, 2019 5:30pm

I. Call to Order, Welcome and Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order by April and Becky. April, Becky, Rachel and Jenner were all in attendance. Jenner is the corresponding secretary. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

Jenner discussed the PTO newsletter. It will be used for Golda community engagement. It will be a monthly publication. Currently there are 617 subscribers. Only 29 subscribers were added after 2017. There needs to be a current distribution list. Parents and staff are encouraged to spread the word about signing up for the newsletter. The submissions will be due the first Friday of the month from staff and PTO. Liza will send out a reminder the Monday of that week. Jenner suggested accepting submissions and getting it sent out within 2 weeks. It will contain a calendar of events, staff announcements, a call for volunteers and a staff wish list.

Minutes were reviewed and approved.

II. Treasurer's Report

Currently, the account balance is \$1,843. \$528 was spent for the back to school picnic. A \$128 deposit has been made from GGG ticket sales. There is currently an outstanding loan to the fund board of \$2750.

III. Principal's Report

On 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, the total school attendance across all grade bands was 1201. This means that there will be no cuts to programs or staff/teachers. As of today, attendance is down to 1,200 and had peaked at 1,208 students. Golda recently received a \$46,000 school improvement grant. \$36,000 will be used to hire a para professional to support reading and math teachers in middle and high school. This position will be hired for in October. \$8,000 will be used to support the staff that participate in the afterschool tutoring program, the NEST. The NEST will be advertised for at the parent teacher conferences. And \$5,000 will be put in to the playground redevelopment project. The funds will be used specifically for beds for house plants and vegetables. Students will use math skills to build these beds, to calculate resources like water, soil etc. There was a discussion about the upcoming school board votes. Currently nothing pertains to Golda. Mr. Nelson will keep us posted. High school admission season is almost here. The big kick off is this Saturday and the Milwaukee High School of the Arts. Ms. Carter has been thinking about how students are admitted into Golda's high school. She wants staff and parents to help think of ways we can recruit students who are a good fit for the program while still being inclusive.

Jodi talked about the transportation being an issue for kids that want to go to the NEST. Becky asked if the NEST is being talked about during the career development time (Advisory)

#### IV. Parent Coordinator's Report

Liza will attend WAYTAG WI Association for Gifted and Talented conference next Thursday and Friday. Liza is excited, one thing she feels that has been missing is how to support parents specifically in the gifted and talented program. Miss Bailey and a few other teachers will also be attending. Liza discussed the back to school night (renamed from open house). There is a high need to schedule it in advance so families with students in different grade levels can be accommodated. This will be changed for next year. Liza has been working on sending a Friday remind message with links instead of several remind messages during the week. Liza is taking over the website and calendar. April talked about the picture day communication and how that could be improved.

#### V. Committee Reports

Green Team – Ms. Gleason – They met with Reflow last Wednesday. Reflow is the company that is working on the playground redevelopment project. It was a productive meeting with both parents and students in attendance. Tentatively, \$440,000 has been raised so far by Reflow. Grant requests have been submitted. \$260,000 still needs to be raised. We have \$10,000 raised so far. Ms. Gleason said some that things are in place but she wants PTO to be involved. Mr. Miller is going to be in charge of the combined giving. Ms. Gleason is starting to work on other on other grant opportunities. If anyone has ideas on how to raise money let Ms. Gleason know. Pledge sheets will be available at conferences. Becky asked about the timeline for having the funds raised. The money should be raised by the end of December. Contract bids will be coming in during January and February and we will be breaking ground by the summer. If we don't reach the goal some things might have to be taken out or we will need raise more money or it can be added later. Ms. Gleason is working on creating a sponsorship letter that can be sent out to companies who may be interested in making a corporate donation.

Ms. Aleem – She and Ms. Young are trying to organize a country western dance for elementary and middle schools. The dance will be held on November 8 from 6-830pm. There will be dancing and games. There will be food for sale and silent auction. They are looking for silent auction items and there is a letter that they have prepared to solicit items. The goal is to raise at least \$5,000 which will be donated to the playground redevelopment project.

PAGE/SENG Jean Freund – A speaker event is taking place on Wednesday at Waukesha South High School. Her name is Heather Bourman and she will be talking about the intellectual needs and social emotional needs of gifted and talented children.

Directory – Stephanie Dugan – There will be a directory published for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade families only. It will be sent out in paper format and electronic format. A parent volunteered to type it up. Should be out towards the end of October.

Teacher/Staff Appreciation – On Wednesday Oct 23 a meal will be provided to the teachers during parent/teacher conferences. The food will be delivered by 2:00pm and ready to go at 2:30pm. A volunteer is needed to set up the food at the lower campus. There was a comment made about not using plastic bottles at the back to school picnic in an effort to go green. A question was asking about what type of beverages to provide at the teacher's dinner. Ms. Gleason said that cans are better and are more likely to be recycled. Jugs of water will also be available.

Golda Global Gathering – The GGG is this Friday. All Golda staff will get a free ticket. Stephanie has them for sale tonight. They are \$15 per ticket and include a pint of beer or soda and a nacho bar. There will be a silent auction. There will be bucks tickets to bid on. It is a great opportunity to meet the golda community in a casual setting. This is the biggest PTO fundraiser of the year. Volunteers are needed for next year.

Trivia night – We need to start putting together a committee. There are some thoughts about doing something different for the 2<sup>nd</sup> fundraiser of the year. The PTO can only do 2 fundraisers during the year. We might want to come up with another one that is as successful as the GGG. If we do trivia night we need to start planning ahead of time. If we host it at Golda it needs to be after the second week of March because of the possibility of hosting a basketball sectional. Everyone should bring ideas to next month's meeting.

VI. Ongoing Business

None

VII. New Business

None

VIII. Fund Requests

Ms. Turner is requesting \$300 to provide concessions to the attendees of the musical. The proceeds will go to support the cost of the musical production. 60 students are participating in the school musical. Fund request was approved.

Ms. Aleem – middle school PBIS, asking for supplies for Golda Global Games which are incentives for positive behavior. She is asking for \$200 for the week of homecoming to decorate the gym with slinkys. The homecoming theme is glow in the dark. Students who qualify will come to the gym during that week to play games. The PBIS focus is on tardiness and attendance. The student council has been working with the homecoming committee to amp it up and create an exciting week. A lot of work has been put in to creating an exciting homecoming week. Fund request was approved.

Paula Jones – debate coach. The team has grown very quickly, up to about 30 students. Each week 20 or so students show up. MPS reimburses the team for the fees but the team has to pay first. She is requesting \$200 so the account doesn't go in the red. Liza asked if the students do fundraising. Ms. Jones said that the students are a little overwhelmed with fundraising. They did participate in family fun night last year. A parent asked if there could be a fee for students who participate. Decision to table this fund request until the next meeting.

Homecoming Committee - \$200 requested for decorations and concessions during the homecoming dance and spirit rousers to build spirit during the week. Fund request approved.

IX. Next Meeting

October 21 at 5:30pm

Adjourned at 6:39pm