

MESPA Board Meeting – Monday December 4th, 2023

Staff gift giving via room parents (potentially pooling \$ by grade to gift to specialists, etc.)

- Status of fundraising (final Annual Appeal push, next steps with committee, etc.)
- Winter activities: Skating party, BINGO night, etc.
- Spring planning: Science Fair, MC Fair, Staff Appreciation Week, Fun Run
- Mentoring program - schedule zoom with three potential volunteers
- Meeting with Chris Nixon re: Muraco facilities
- Other items

When we did zooms for room parents, an issue was brought up how it's difficult to budget for specialists. When we give gifts for all the specialists, it ends up that the specialists are making more than the teachers do. Is it possible to dividing it where we pool the money and provide one gift certificate for each specialist.

Are the reading specialists being considered, the SEL teacher, etc.? It sounds like things are very much out of balance, can we go through the math exercise and make sure we include Lori, Leslie, Lisa, Vinny, Bob, school psychologist, Mrs. Dullaghan, Mrs. Feagan, SEL specialists, reading specialists, etc. Once we start including others the list of people becomes very large, we need to confirm that we can cover the amount.

We have 19 classrooms, if we pool enough money where we can give everyone money, but then the gift would be much less.

The gift max is \$150 if it's a "class gift" or they have to disclose it, but if you give it to the classroom there's not a limit. Reading specialists. How much would we give each individual person, or would it be a varying among depending on rolls, and how would we tally that out per classroom? If you have a small class, you may not be able to afford putting the extra funds per specialist. We could either divide equally, or give the 4 specialists a bit more, (\$150) vs \$50 for everyone else.

There is a possibility that Leslie and Lori give gifts to all the others. Are there rumblings of certain teachers, or is everyone happy with how everything is? Lets discuss with staff to figure out what's going on. Kelly Kunha is constantly getting gifts and support from Muraco staff which she posts on Instagram...Muraco on their own has a community of support which we don't see.

Theres a possibility that some classrooms aren't going to have enough, lets say we have a pool. Give \$100 each specialist, \$50 for the rest, lets discuss and decide by Friday December 8th.

Fundraising – We did our final push and got quite a lot in the last week. At this point we're calling it finished, we're reconciling where we are exactly but we're at about \$12,000, and expecting about \$1500 matching, but difficult to predict when and if that will come in.

Beth is submitting an update to Shamus and Hamilton (our fundraising committee) and give them ownership on grant funding, getting grants in, fun run, etc.. Formalize their responsibilities and reporting back to the board.

Fundraising, any ideas on how to email or talk to Jodi, she doesn't have the bandwidth to do grants, but she is interested. These are our needs for fundraising if you want to take on these tasks. I'd like them to take some ownership of it, we can mention Jodi's name as someone who is interested. Eleni to share

with Beth name of person interested in grant writing/fundraising. Etc. Beth to organize and try to structure grant committee.

January skating party – There are two early release days in January, 11th and 30th. For this we need to reserve the rink, we did hot chocolate and snacks, and we covered this and asked if families wanted to make a donation. If anyone has the bandwidth – Eleni to call January 30th Tuesday Sandy to confirm time 1-3PM. A couple of us brought coffee makers.

5th grade committee- Bingo night Tuesday February 13th 6-7:30PM, Valentines day Bingo. January FitLife FitCrawl. We're going to offer pizza on our next Bingo night, used to be ordered by Gloria's.

Science Fair - We usually do in late February/early March. We have all the materials from last year but consider doing one k-2 and another night for grades 3-5.

Multicultural Fair planning – Usually it's the Thursday before Memorial Day. Joanna wont be able to go to practices twice a week. Brienne will probably be our choreographer. We should consider who would like to take on Multicultural Fair MC and choreography next year...bring them on board to help this year.

Staff Appreciation – We had a good system last year, if we use that as our template perhaps it'll be more streamlines. The framework is there. Last year we spent a lot of time figuring it out, but we can save a lot of time this year if we use the same system. By March we should have this scheduled. May is going to be tough because we have Fun Run, Teacher appreciation, multicultural fair, etc.

Make sure that everything is in the classrooms, all the teachers had the correct video, mostly a communications push, discuss with Claudine if she's willing to do that this year. If they're background is in fundraising we should discuss with them.

Mentoring Program – three parent volunteers who said they'd be interested in learning more on what a mentoring program would look like. We have some materials saved on our google drive and a talk through the team to see if. Lou Wang – Lianne Lee originally asked to get it going again, and Sarah Leblon Smith, program is for 4th and 5th there's a packet that was put together. Someone needs to solicit from kids what careers they'd be interested in, and try to match them. If I recall there was 2 or 3 meetings with the kids and then we have a night of sharing.

Can the people who volunteer run it themselves. We don't know the scope of interest, we have the contacts through Ambrose so we can reach out to them.

January 10th is our next MESPA meeting in the evening, in person at Muraco.