Grand Traverse Academy Family Council

Meeting Minutes November 13, 2017

Traverse City, MI

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Jim Foley.

Present:

* Kim Moore, Vice President
* Anna Heiges, Treasurer
* Tracie Hardy, Secretary
* Beth Troyer, Reporter
* Jim Coneset, Interim GTA Principal, school liaison
* Mindy VanHouzen, GTA secondary Dean of Students, school liaison
* Danielle
* Suzanne Threet, Events Chair
* Megan Long, Facilities Chair
* Kerri Kornexl, Culture Chair
* Jenn Willoughby

Kim Moore moved to approve October 2017 minutes, Beth Troyer second, unanimously adopted and placed on file.

**Report of the Outreach committee** by Kim Moore: Kim is awaiting a response and will follow up in regard to a letter that was sent to the Costco General Manager asking for items donated for the GTA food pantry, winter clothes for a freshman female, and to become involved with Partners in Education with GTA.

Discussion continued focusing on aiding the needy families within GTA. Goal is to collect BATA Bus passes, gas cards and Meijer grocery cards. This way “items” do not need to be stored at the school. Mindy VanHouzen keeps a list of families that need assistance with transportation, food and clothing. Jim Foley to write up something for the newsletter and have published weekly to collect these items. Those that wish to donate will be directed to bring into the secondary office in care of the Grand Traverse Council. Mindy Vanhouzen reported there are at least 7-8 families that need transportation help, some in the Fife Lake and Williamsburg area. She will work on getting all specific areas and suggestion made to zone neighborhoods for carpool assistance. Jim Coneset shared there is a Car pool World App that could be used. Jim Foley suggested we will see what is feasible first, then look into the mechanism of how to assist these families.

**Report of the Events Committee** by Suzanne Threet: She has organized the Battle of the Books and has six coaches with teams filling with students to participate with the Traverse Area District Library. She has touched base with the GTA Elementary office in order for space to be provided within the school.

Suzanne is still unsure how to plan and fund future events that the committee has been given permission to go ahead with. The suggestion was made to speak with Maria Dean at GTA who has had a hand in planning these events in the past. Another suggestion made to coordinate with the volunteer committee and fundraiser committee along with the GTA officials with Suzanne as the facilitator to give event details.

The Mother/Son event is on the GTA calendar for April 13, 2017. Typically this is alternated each year with the Father/Daughter dance. Anna Heiges has a corporate sponsorship lead.

All communication will continue to go through Becky Buning per Jim Coneset. Suzanne has a google document she created that will be distributed this way to gain more volunteers on the events committee. Tracie Hardy volunteers to assist Suzanne since she has event planning experience. Suzanne has created an events email that she will give to Beth Troyer for distribution.

**Report of the Facilities Committee** by Megan Long: She has been working with Brett Wilson from GTA in regard to improvement on the school grounds. Brett would like to install a split-rail fence at South carpool to keep cars from driving on the grass. It is very costly to repair the ruts that have been made and in addition sprinkler heads have been broken. A possible less expensive alternative would be to use pallets with posts that could be easily removed for snow plowing. These could also be painted by individual grades to promote school spirit and the one done by the Senior class could be auctioned off at the end of the year with funds go towards Project Graduation. Donations could be made from paint stores. Storage when not in use becomes an issue. Another alternative would be to have the school board approve putting in gravel instead of grass.

Another project is to plant perennials and bulbs at both entrances to beautify the signs. The time frame is tight with weather this time of the year. Megan is in the process of pricing out plants and bulbs as well as clearance shrubs. Another suggestion was to pick up seeds and have Ms. Galoci and GTA students grow in the green house to assist with the project and to keep costs down. The question of the budge arose and Brett thought there were funds within the GTA budget to be used. This will be looked into before fundraising begins for this project. Suggested we put a note in the GTA newsletter for families thinning out their bulbs and plants to donate extras to the school for this purpose.

In addition, woodchips need to be placed on the trails on school grounds. It was suggested this would be a great Boy Scout project and we do have a club at school.

Dannielle stated that fundraising is the only way to make these projects happen. Jim Foley used the term “in-kind” and when articles are being written for the newsletters, terminology will be an important factor.

**Old Business**:

1. Lowes Grant: Anna Heiges has been in contact and the decision is being made by the company January 2018.
2. School Supply Drive: The date has been set for January 8-19, 2018. There will be boxes at carpool for collection of items with a tag line such as “fresh year, fresh supplies” asking for Kleenex and Clorox wipes. Mindy VanHouzen suggested to have the GTA Builders Club, which is comprised of Junior High students and is the pre-cursor to Key Club, head up the sorting and distribution of these supplies within GTA. Rachel is the contact for this. Mindy to collect a list of needs from the teachers as well.
3. Post Hurricane Fundraising-hold a GTA Spirit day to collect funds to give to a local organization to distribute to those affected.
	1. It was decided not to donate outside of school.
	2. Instead the funds will be kept within the school to go towards purchase of the items listed above line 29.
	3. Date has been set at Friday December 15, 2017.

**New Business**:

1. Reporter Position has been left vacant. Beth Troyer has been completing the duties of this position. Tracie Hardy moved to nominate Beth Troyer into this position officially, Anna Heiges second, unanimously approved. Now instead of there being two Secretaries, Tracie Hardy will remain as Secretary with Beth Troyer as the reporter. Tracie will send the minutes to Beth for proofreading and uploading to the GTAFC Website.
2. Open Discussion:
3. Danielle concerned with the way the finances will be handled now that the GTAFC voted to be under the GTA umbrella. She states that there is no reason for GTAFC to have a board as they are now a committee under the GTA school board. Jim Foley explained his visit to the GTA School Board meeting and what his take away understanding was that GTAFC is to act with transparency to the GTA School Board, however, we are able to continue and act independently as a board with committees. Jim Foley will seek out a statement from the GTA School Board to determine the relationship.
4. Anna Heiges and Kim Moore expressed their concern with the changes that have taken place at GTA with the retirement of Susan Dameron and the appointment of Jim Coneset as Interim Superintendent. Jim Coneset stated that nothing would be changing as his role between GTAFC and the GTA School Board would be the same as Susan’s.
5. Jim Foley stated a motion was needed to reopen the vote to change the GTAFC be umbrella under the GTA Financials. Anna Heiges to do further research on the pros and cons. Kim Moore motioned to open more discussion at the December meeting after more research has been done, second by Anna Heiges, moved to December 2017 agenda.

Next meeting Monday December 11, 2017 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Tracie Hardy

Secretary