Grand Traverse Academy

Family Council meeting minutes

September 11, 2017

Meeting called to order by Jim Foley, President, at 6:30pm

Board members present: GTA Staff:

Jim Foley Susan Dameron

Tracie Hardy Mindy VanHouzen

Anne Heiges

Kim Moore

Beth Troyer

Committee Chairs present: Other attendees:

Susan Threet-events Alicia

Jill Corwin-volunteers Traci

Sarah Wilcoxen

Megan Cong

Bethany Cameron

Jen Willoughby

Proposed tentative agenda:

1. Report on finances from Susan Dameron
2. Report on volunteers from Jill Corwin from open house
3. Back to school supply drive
4. Financial needs

(1.)School Board invited the Family Council board to their next meeting on Friday, September 25, 2017 at 1:00pm to discuss financial future of GTAFC. Also to see if we need a separate EIN and checking account. GTAFC board members will then vote at the October meeting based on the information given at the school board meeting.

(4.)Anna Heiges discussed whether we can apply for a grant since the school is a non-profit. Lowes has a grant opportunity, but the deadline to apply is on 9-29-17.

An email/survey needs to go out the school staff to see what the needs for the school are. After the survey is completed, present it to parents present at the GTAFC meeting to see if anything else needs to be added.

Susan Dameron suggested that the school needs a shed for the STEM program. It was determined that we can use the schools EIN to apply for the Lowe’s grant.

(2.) A motion was presented to pursue the Lowe’s grand using GTA’s EIN and if awarded, money would go towards building a shed. Motion was seconded, motion passed with no opposition.

Jill Corwin-Volunteer committee:

Jill manned the volunteer table at the school open house

-6 secondary parents signed up to volunteer as needed

-49 elementary parents volunteered specifically in their child’s classroom

-1 teacher requested help with the robotics group. This will be put in an upcoming GTA weekly newsletter.

(3.) Are more school supplies needed to help out families who may not be able to afford the items on the school supply list and also to help teachers with classroom needs?

-ideas are 1. Carpool drop off for supplies 2. Jean day in January 2018.

It was decided to do a jean day in January 2018 as a school supply drive.

Specific items would be:

-Crayons

-Pencils

-Kleenex

-Clorox wipes

-Plastic spoons

Family council will plan specific date at October or November's meeting

Megan Long has agreed to be the Facilities committee chair

(4.) School needs and other funding needs

-get teachers involved to know what needs are

-a survey would be helpful in this matter

-if questions are presented to Susan, she’s willing to put together a survey

By 10/4/17 Mindy VanHouzen will have a needs list together for our GTA families. Then the Family Council can assist the school in helping to fill the needs on the list without jeopardizing the family's privacy.

We need to reach out to new families within the school and see if they have questions or need help with anything, but would need a parent release form signed. That could be put in one of the school's newsletters, and can be added to the welcome packet new families receive in the future.

EVENTS

Susan Threat created a gmail acount QR code, Google Classroom questionnaire

-was able to sign up four interested parent volunteers

Possible shift to family council:

-Carnival

-Father/Daughter dance

-Mother/Son event

New event ideas:

-Parent scavenger hunt to raise funds

-make new traditions

-made award ceremonies and elementary music night more of a grand, special event.

October Meeting:

Updated official status on all active committees plus clear definition.

-Outreach

-Culture

-Volunter

-Fundraising

-Events

-Facilities

Culture

-Committee is still working on definition of committee

-Has been previously discussed to assist with the choice theory teachings already in place at GTA

-possibly make removable banners and boards in hallways

Next meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2017 @ 6:30

Agenda for october meeting-

-definitions and updates of all active committees

-vote on financial status of GTAFC