

## Maryland Avenue Montessori Fund Meeting

11/20/17

Present: Lindsey Baptist, Joe DiCarlo, Mary Driscoll, Debra Holton, Mike Kirtley, Vesla Hoeschen, Andy Larsen, Lai King Moy, Tanja Price, Jason Puskar, Alex Ramsey, Melanie Whitlow

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Minutes
  - a. CORRECT date of previous minutes to Oct. 16
  - b. Unanimously approved
3. Principal's Update
  - a. Funding situation better than expected, because the board approved supplemental funding of \$20/pupil for an additional \$9K
    - i. Cannot carry over
  - b. Facilities
    - i. We're 100 square feet short of a level 2 building, which makes it harder to attract and retain experienced engineers. Looking into options.
    - ii. Don't have the equipment to take care of all the new facilities: may need a plow
  - c. Probably will not have to ask Fund for money for a music teacher
  - d. New uniform survey by Jan. 1; an annual survey
  - e. No staff turnover: first time in 10 years
  - f. Great climate at moment: no suspensions
4. Treasurer's Update
  - a. Processed checks for Vesla for the shed and Meagan for hotdogs for the Principal's Picnic
  - b. Requests several modifications to the form for funds requests: Jason will make changes
5. Springfest
  - a. Solicitation List: all members review on Google Docs and identify a couple to contact
    - i. Looking for auction items over \$100; Gift cards over \$25; wine over \$20
    - ii. Fill out the Google form when soliciting
    - iii. Questions about how to provide evidence of 501c3 status if we can't have the letter? Joe will inquire with MPS.
  - b. Co chairs are: Mary, Deb, Lindsey, Meagan
  - c. Ticke prices
    - i. Should we lower prices to attract more from \$30 to \$20 or \$15?
      1. Unclear whether bringing in more people would bring in more bidding at auctions, elsewhere

- 2. General consensus to consider \$20, to be taken up by planning committee
  - d. Food
    - i. Spent \$2500 last year on food: should we spend more?
    - ii. Agreement on high quality!
    - iii. Some reported not seeing much food; others saw plenty. Perhaps unevenly distributed? The bar area is really crowded.
    - iv. Perhaps a station where food would be available in one place.
    - v. General consensus to try to serve more food, perhaps with different methods of serving or distributing, such as a table or station
  - e. Gift Baskets: Erin O'Donnell agrees to do gift baskets (with Glory again?)
    - i. Communicate with teachers to be sure they understand how it works
  - f. Wine Pull: still need someone to lead
  - g. Gift Card: Melanie and Steve W. will handle
  - h. Joe: suggests approaching corporate donors specifically to fund Nature's Classroom, UEC, etc. Dedicated annual giving.
  - i. Lindsey: difficult to get employers to match when we can't market very specific options that meet their criteria
    - i. Also, can't approach major donors without a much clearer plan
    - ii. Joe will check with McDowell to see how they handle their dedicated donations
  - j. Questions about whether a business that wanted to support UEC trips could donate directly to UEC to avoid MPS red tape. But this might raise other complications.
  - k. New informational flyers to go home in the folders explaining what the fund does
  - l. Logo: Jason will work on a simplified logo that will show up better in one color photocopies
  - m. Andrew Baptist will contact Jason about setting up new MAM Fund website
6. Simple Supper
- a. Very successful event: high turnout, good food, good feedback
  - b. Sparsely attended at 7 pm: move up?
  - c. Next date: Feb. 6, perhaps Breakfast for Dinner?
    - i. Mary will coordinate in advance but cannot attend
7. Next meeting Dec 18

Adjourned