**Matoska International Parent Board**

**Meeting Minutes May 14, 2013**

The meeting began at 6:35 p.m. Those present introduced themselves. John Leininger served as timekeeper.

**Secretary’s report – Jennifer Weddell**

The April minutes were unanimously **approved**. The election for nine MIPTO board members for next school year is complete. Ballots have been collected but not opened and counted yet. This will be done by the end of the week. There were nine candidates for the nine seats, so it is expected that they will all be elected.

An email vote was requested by Angel Fleming on April 18 to approve two expenditures from Discretionary Funds: a $40 gift card for Gayle Chapman’s retirement, and up to $15 for a plant or flowers for Carolyn Kay for Administrative Professional’s Day. Both were unanimously **approved** by email votes on April 18-21.

**Treasurer’s report – Angel Fleming**

* Savings balance per 4/30/13 bank statement is $23,982.68
* Checking balance per 4/30/13 bank statement as of is $4,833.73
* Year-to-date income through April is $38,073.81
* Year-to-date expenses through April are $30,930.72

Carnival income was $17,036 and expenses to date are $5,106.42. There may be a few more expenses coming in but most have been paid. As of now, net proceeds from the carnival total almost $12,000.

The digital drive raised $1,500 towards new technology for the school. The board will match that amount and give an additional $3,500 towards technology, to fulfill the $5,000 in technology funding that was agreed upon at the 3/12/13 board meeting.

The board unanimously **approved** the treasurer’s report.

**Staff Report – Julie Stonehouse and Jeanne Mack**

It’s Exhibition time for the 5th graders. It’s an exciting and stressful time and the students are learning a lot, not only about their project topics but they are learning from the process as well. Thursday, May 30 is Exhibition day, and the community is invited. Graduation celebrations and portfolios will also be on May 30 for the 5th grades. The 4th grades are in their What’s the Matter planner, about environmental and earth science. Tied into this planner was their field trip earlier in the month to Fort Snelling and on the Mississippi River boat trip.

**Principal’s Report – John Leininger**

* Thanks to all the hard work of many volunteers, the carnival was a huge success despite the bad weather.
* We now have a full iPad lab, which 5th grades are now using for Exhibition research.
* More families are shifting their choice away from 1/2-day Kindergarten to K-Plus (all day), so now there are only about 4 or 5 families choosing 1/2-day at this time. We will have 5 K-Plus sections, most likely with core content in the morning. This way the 1/2-day students can attend in the AM and go home at lunch. There should be about 18 students per class.
* The building project is proceeding well and will continue through the summer. It is scheduled to be finished sometime during the 2013-14 school year.
* Staffing is set for next year. There will be five K-Plus classes, three 4th grade classes, and four classes at each other grade level. Kristine Fischbach and Jennifer Reckinger will attend Gifted/Talented training this summer. Third grade will have two cluster groups next year. The District has hired a new G&T coordinator.
* The District will post a job announcement for Volunteer Coordinator this summer, due to Gayle Chapman’s retirement.

**Camp News**

Because of time constraints, transportation costs, and class sizes, we will be changing the camp experience for our students. Buses to Camp Widjiwagan cost $4,700 compared to buses to Camp St. Croix at $400. Exhibition and standardized test schedules make it difficult to fit in a longer camp experience for 5th grades. We now have about 20 more students per grade level than Widji can host, so some students must sleep off site and be bused in each morning. The overnight camp experience will move from 5th grade to 4th grade. Both 4th and 5th grades will have a one-day camp trip to St. Croix in the fall. The 4th grade classes will then also have a two-day, one-night camp trip to St. Croix in the spring. The new schedule will transition in during the 2013-14 school year, when 5th grade will attend Widji overnight in the fall. Fourth grades will attend St. Croix for one day in the fall and one overnight in the spring. The new schedule will be fully implemented in the 2014-15 school year.

**Other**

* Angel reported that Ms. Farinella inquired about giving a stipend to Mr. Keen for volunteering to play the piano at some of the music programs this spring. The board discussed whether to add this to the budget for future years, since this is the second year in a row that it has been requested. Some raised questions about whether this would set a precedent for paying volunteers for other events. It was decided that Angel would suggest that Ms. Farinella could use her $100 classroom funds and donate as much of it to Mr. Keen as she saw fit, which is the same way it was decided last year. The finance committee will discuss this issue as the budget for next year is prepared this summer.
* There has been no response to the request for volunteers to work on technology grants this summer. Jennifer will write another notice for the Buzz Sheet that includes more information and details about what we’re looking for.
* Sonya booked 3 dates for Saints North roller skating nights next school year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Meeting Attendance

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| **Board Members** | **Staff** |
| X | Shannon Otto (Co-Chair) | X | John Leininger (principal) |
| X | Cami Raeburn (Co-Chair) |  | Gayle Chapman (volunteer coordinator) |
| X | Angel Fleming (Treasurer) |  | Kirsten Duoos (IB coordinator) |
| X | Jennifer Weddell (Secretary) | X | Julie Stonehouse (5th grade teacher) |
| X | Jodi Hawkins | X | Jeanne Mack (4th grade teacher) |
|  | Michelle Johnson | **Others** |
|  | Becky Richnofsky |  |  |
| X | John Rogers |  |  |
|  | Lisa Setterlund |  |  |
|  | Sonya Zuker |  |  |

**The next regular meeting of the Matoska International PTO board will be held on June 11, 2013 at 6:30pm in the Media Center.**

**Please visit our website at** [**www.matoskaparents.weebly.com**](http://www.matoskaparents.weebly.com)**, for meeting minutes, agendas, and more.**