

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Cincinnati Waldorf School
Parent Association
May 21, 2010**

In Attendance: (The following attended part or all of the meeting) Tammy Duvall, Karla Knochelman, Chelsea Green, Christine Masur, Lisa Suttchenko, Letitia McGuff, Maura Robson, Toni Haap, Nicole Gunderman, Debbie Moll, Acela Baladad, Venessa Langley, Emily Oudomsouk, Amy Wakeman, and Jenna Sizemore.

May Faire Recap

Karla Knochelman reported that May Faire raised approximately \$2,200 in net proceeds (\$3,590 in proceeds and \$1,390 in expenses). Classroom Representatives are asked to submit a written summary of each of their areas from May Faire for the Binder to assist the Class Reps and PA Leadership with next year's MF planning. These can be emailed to Chelsea, Karla or Tammy or a hardcopy put in the PA Inbox in the office.

Financial Report

Ms. Knochelman further reported that the PA had provided approximately \$8,000 in grants during the school year and will be giving CWS approximately \$5,000, representing ½ of the next proceeds from PA events during the 2009/2010 school year, to be used for professional development.

Chelsea Green reminded the PA that there was a pending grant request for approximately \$2,500 to pay for a performance by a traveling Eurythmy troop during Fall 2010. Ms. Knochelman reported that the PA does not have sufficient projected cash flow to grant this request.

Ms. Green then read a grant request form submitted by Jody Harris for \$200 to purchase clear bins and hangers to be used to organize the CWS Costume Room. Ms. Knockleman requested that PA table this request until May Faire expenses were finalized. The PA also discussed the need for storage bins in other storage areas of the school. The PA also suggested that the CWS Community be asked to donate hangers.

Teacher Appreciation Day

The PA discussed the details of the upcoming Teacher Appreciation Day to thank CWS Faculty. The event will be held on Thursday, June 3. There will be Car Wash and Spa Room from 8:30 – 3:30 and food served in the Cafeteria from 3:15 – 4:30.

Car Wash – The Car Wash will be held from 8:30 – 3:30. **Grades 2,3 and 4** are responsible for the Car Wash. Nicole Gunderman reported that Bari Mairose coordinated the Car Wash last year and may have towels that can be used. It was agreed that there would be a sign-up sheet for volunteers with 6 slots per hour from 8:30 – 3:30. There

will also be list for the Faculty to list who wants a wash and if they have any time constraints. Christine Masur said that a work order can be completed to have the hoses and shop vac brought outside.

- **Grade 2** is responsible to supply sponges and towels.
- **Grade 3** is responsible for bringing cleaners (car wash soap and vinegar/water solution for windows).
- **Grade 4** is asked to provide some sort of “treat” for the inside of each car. There will be no Car Wash if it rains.

Spa Room – **Grade 5** is responsible for the Spa Room (set-up, organizing service providers and getting faculty sign-ups). Last year it was located in the Faculty Lounge and Becki Tossey decorated the room using mood (xmas) lighting, fabric, peaceful music, Karen Crick’s aromatherapy machine. Community members are asked to volunteer their services in 2 hour increments. The following gave massages last year: Lauren Wales, Shelley Mauer, Andy Shetterly, and Marcelina _____. Faculty signs up for ½ increments. It was suggested that shorter services also be offered such as hand massages for those who can’t take a full ½ break.

Food – Food will be served in the Cafeteria from 3:15 – 4:30.

- **Oak Tree** and **Sweet Pea** will set up. Ms. Masur suggested that a work order for tables and chairs be submitted. Approximately 40 will attend.
- **Nursery** will supply bread and butter.
- **Rose Blossom** to provide cheese and spreads.
- **Grade 1** to provide salads (protein, leaf, fruit, etc.).
- **Grade 6** will provide drinks.
- **Grade 8** will provide desserts.
- **Grade 7** will clean up from 3:45 – 4:30. Clean up includes storing the items for the Summer in the appropriate storage location.

Class Based Leadership

The PA discussed how the sharing of the work for PA events went this year. The PA decided to keep the same distribution of responsibility with the PA leadership to make a few changes to the master spreadsheet and resend prior to the next school year. Class Reps were asked to try to determine, in conjunction with the teacher, the Class Rep for next year before the start of the next school year. It was suggested that the Class Reps try to get volunteers from their class to take responsibility for their class’s portion of PA events, gala projects, etc. early in the year.

Several suggestions were made regarding volunteers at PA events. Post volunteer lists at each station including telephone numbers. Send volunteers reminder emails the night before. Post instructions for volunteers at each station.

PA Programs for Next Year

Ms. Masur reported that several parents have raised various programming ideas for the

school and suggested that the PA might consider supporting new programs for next year including: Sports, Community Service, and Cultural Events. The PA leadership agreed to organize a survey of the Community regarding interest in these and other programs.

Organized Sports – It was discussed that a committee of interested parents to meet to discuss and research the potential for CWS to have organized sports teams especially in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades. Other grades were also discussed as well including more sports as enrichment classes and opening them up to younger students. Ms. Masur agreed to ask Jim Olson for pedagogical guidelines as to which sports are developmentally appropriate for which age child. Letitia McGuff agreed to organize a meeting of interested parents including Jim Olson from the Faculty. Other parents noted as interested include: Shelly Mauer, Cathy Sacco, Maura Robson, and Joel DeMoe. Sports discussed included track, basketball and soccer. A goal of Spring 2011 was suggested.

Community Service – Toni Haap suggested that there were a couple of local high schools that CWS could team up with to create a Community Service project. She agreed to be a part of a Committee to research possibilities in this area.

Cultural Activities – Ms. Green agreed to head up a PA Committee on this topic. It was noted that assemblies for cultural activities would need College approval.

Parent Education

Ms. Masur reported that Karen Crick was asking for feedback as to how to get more parents to attend parent education events. Barriers discussed included: topic, childcare, timing, lack of advance notice, etc. It was noted that the EC has had success with their talks with they are tacked on to other events such as puppet plays and offer childcare. It was suggested that a survey would help with these questions. Community Life and Pedagogy Goal Committees agreed to meet to discuss. It was suggested that experts outside of the Waldorf movement be found whose research supports Waldorf education. Other ideas were a Series of topics like the school used to offer. Offer small chunks of info during school assemblies, etc.

Hot Lunch Program

Several parents have shown interest in the school offering a hot lunch program. It was reported that the school has tried to implement a hot lunch program twice and there wasn't enough students signing up to continue it. Reasons for it include: some parents rather not pack, social interest of the children eating as a community rather than in individual classrooms. Barriers include: cost given the type of food interested in (organic, local, gluten free, etc.) and limited time allotted to lunch (20 min. to eat, 30 min. for recess).

Suggestions made: 1) include cost in tuition and require all students to pay for it; 2) start with one day a week to try it, like the soup lunch on Grandfriends' Day; 3) research

participation rate of the Pizza day; 4) replace pizza lunch with a community soup lunch once a week.

Substitute Teacher Curriculum

Several parents wanted information as to what curriculum substitute teachers use in the classroom and would like advance notice of planned teacher absences. Ms. Masur to share interest of PA on this issue with the College.