

Steering Committee February Meeting Minutes (read at your own risk and leisure)

Feb. 4th, 2020

Attendance - Alison Robinson, Leah Lachman, Ashley Patros, Vanessa Pickar, Dawn Wacek, Erika Cedegren, Karen Ehlers, Mike Lawrence, Teri Amann, Anna Jordan, Patty Fuller, Maria Henry, Amanda Jackson, Kristin Engstrom, Allison Schneider, Renee Stowell, Emily Sustar, Lindsey Abicht, Clarissa Grover, Ben Burns

January 2020 meeting minutes reviewed and approved:

- Gift card for Jean (Spanish teacher) was purchased and presented
- The bus fee for KVR field trip amounted to roughly \$615 (under budget, Wahoo!)
- The Choice and Charter School informational meeting at the library went very well
- Ashley motioned to approve minutes and Dawn seconded the motion

Principal Report: (Can we give it up for Mr. Burns who stuck around for this meeting even though he was suffering terribly with strep? Poor, Mr. Burns. He was a Rockstar—a quarantined Rockstar.)

-4K program: This is terribly complicated and involved. SOTA I is approved for a 4K program (yay!), but falling enrollment in the district creates some potential pitfalls (oh, no!). Mr. Burns presented multiple scenarios (not an exhaustive list) of how 4K could be incorporated into our school. The initial request from the school board was to combine 4K with K classes. However, it sounds like we can offer counter options. We can move forward once we have a firmer idea of registration numbers/enrollment. The primary goal is to keep all of our current teachers at SOTA I and determine how the 4K program works into the larger, long-term vision of our school. Mr. Burns turns in his preliminary staffing request by February 18th, but things are not solidified until early March. More will be communicated as information becomes available.

-Expansion update: Hamilton/SOTA has received a CBDB grant for \$400,000 to be used over the next 2 years. This grant, coupled with donations from both an anonymous donor and the Boys and Girls Club, will be introduced at the 2/17/2020 school board meeting as an action item. The hope is for a positive vote in March to move forward with expansion plans for the community school. Both Hamilton and SOTA I have grown substantially since their inceptions. More information to come on this, as well.

-Charter renewal: Every five years, SOTA I must submit the school charter to be reviewed and renewed. 2020 is the 5-year mark for our school. Mr. Burns sent out the charter via email to parents. A small committee of interested parents served on an ad hoc committee to offer input or seek clarification. Nothing major has changed, and this formality will be complete soon.

AIR – Anime: Mrs. Henry has learned that CA illustrator, Carlos Neito, who is coming to the WI/MN area in May. Besides working on several popular animated TV shows he offers in-school workshops. He teaches kids how to create their own characters. His workshops run 75 minutes, and he provides the materials for 50 students (at a time). SOTA is looking at having him come as an artist in residence. We would need 2 sessions (3, if we also involve

Hamilton students). This opportunity would be available for 2nd-5th graders. The cost is \$300/session until we have 3+ sessions, in which the cost is \$275/session.

Teacher Report: KVR was a super fun field trip (Maybe a little bit less so for the kiddos who left winter boots and gear in their lockers at school. Also, does anyone have a picture of the lucky and loved student who was gifted Miss Anna's socks to serve as winter weather protection? That is priceless, folks.). Also, the 4th and 5th graders will NOT be bringing home iPads from school except for very specific purposes that will be communicated to parents (e.g. the upcoming science fair). If your kid is unhappy with this choice, tell them it's my fault. I don't mind.

Fundraising: Equal exchange online in Jan/Feb was a good learning opportunity. We will likely just stick to the major fundraiser in the fall (and maybe include an online component, then). Upcoming fundraisers include the Night Out on the Town for parents/grown-ups at Java Vino. This is coming up quickly on Saturday, February 22nd from 5-8 PM. SOTA receives a percentage of food and beverage purchases. There will be raffle tickets available for some nice prizes (different from past years' silent auctions). There will also be live music. AND we are exploring the option of babysitting (for those who couldn't make it otherwise.) Ms. Karen (and her daughters) are Rockstars. More info to come. Also, look forward to the Skate-a-thon on March 13th. This will run from 1:30-3:30 (It's an early release day, no worries!) The hope is to get the students involved in planning some of activities for this fun event. And many thanks to Jessamine Langley for taking on a large chunk of this family activity. Also, if you have alternative ideas to pie-in-the-face fundraisers, email them to Doris. (I have to admit, though, Karen's enthusiasm for creaming Mike could be a BIG draw.)

Technologist (I'm cringing, John R.) **in Residence:** Since the school district doesn't foresee hiring more teachers in the immediate future, our request for a Tech Ed teacher (think Mr. Nofsinger, but with technology/tools instead of choreography/scripts) needs to be tabled for now. Doris (yet another brilliant Rockstar and our Steering Committee president... she's so versatile!) had the fantastic idea to find opportunities for technology projects, much like we have artists-in-residence come. Mrs. Henry felt like there are likely grants we could apply for with this new way of incorporating technology into our curriculum. (We might as well say it: Maria consistently proves to be a SOTA champion. Rockstar, much? Check.)

Rep Reports: Yeah, those didn't happen.

Vacancies: The need is real, friends! Don't be shy. Steering Committee is a legitimately great group of individuals. We laugh much, discuss much, learn much, and do our best to serve our kiddos and SOTA staff. Good times abound! Even if you are currently devoid of any interest in being the vice president, a co-community building representative (with Judson Steinback), or a technology officer (That sounds a bit ominous, doesn't it? Maybe we should change it to something more snazzy like "administrative technologist"... Oh, wait. Never mind.), still feel free

to come to our monthly meetings (1st Tuesday of the month from 6-7:30 PM in the LMC, which is the school library in case you're like me and didn't know that's what LMC refers to).

Adjourned meeting at **7:34 PM**. Boom! Not bad, Doris! Go home and go to bed, Mr. Burns! We hope you're feeling better already.