

SLLIS Council minutes

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Attendance Kathryn Bonney (TCP), Lisa D'Souza (TSP), Arlene Galvez (admin), Tina Greer (TCP), Tugrul Ozdemir (TSP), Vince Schoemehl (board), Debi Viamontes (TFP), Lilith Werner (admin). Not present: Liz Turpin (TFP).

(1) 501(c)(3) update: Bylaws are nearly finalized. Officers just need to vote to approve. We are unclear on what the next steps are. Vince provides contact at Community Foundation to Debi. Community Foundation acts as a fiscal agent for newly forming non-profits and would likely be willing to accept donations for Friends of Language Immersion until we have EIN and IRS approval of our 501(c)(3) status; they may also have info on next steps for filing 501(c)(3) paperwork. Debi reports she has found a UMSL website that explains how to file for 501(c)(3). Lisa suggest Shannon Oberkrom may know the process as well. We may need to consider purchasing insurance down the road.

(2) weekly newsletter: Tina reports parent have interest in weekly newsletter from teachers. Lisa notes Spanish program has had this uniform practice for many years--newsletters come home every Monday and are identical across grade level, and format is very similar from grade to grade. She has shared sample with parent leading this inquiry and will share sample with Tina and Lilith.

(3) buzz book/Power School-- Lilith will find out where we are. Today's newsletter included opt-in link for buzz book, so we are still working on it. PowerSchool is our current student information system, but we have received an upgrade that has potential to offer a parent portal in the future. We will also investigate ways to use PowerSchool to more easily allow a buzz book opt-in next year, while protecting private information. PowerSchool will also be linked to the new SLLIS app, so it is important for parents to keep their email and phone up-to-date in order to receive notifications/live feed data/updates on the app.

(4) drop off/pick up--parents have asked about having a staff person at Papin morning drop off. Last year Baldo and Patrick were outside every morning helping kids out of cars and ensuring smooth drop off. Parents can't volunteer for this because of potential liability, and SLLIS would rather avoid putting parents in potentially fraught situations like drop off has the potential to be. Will look into staff availability. Unclear what the pick up problem/question was about because person who raised issue was not specific.

(5) holiday meetings --December Board meeting and Council meeting and January PTO meetings will be cancelled given holidays.

(6) PTO child care -- seems to be working very well, PTO meeting will be 6:10-7:10 to give parents time to drop off starting at 6. We'll be mindful of staff staying late and work on getting out of building in a timely way.

(7) Field trips -- Boeing and Target both have field trip grants. She will share this info with Lilith in case SLLIS can take advantage of the opportunity.

(8) Used uniform sale--Debi willing to manage during the November conferences. She will connect with Kathryn to get already-donated clothes. Lilith to inform parents more clothes and shoes can be dropped at both campuses next week.

(9) Transportation Study -- Lilith favors data-driven decisionmaking. To that end SLLIS will undertake transportation study to measure bus ridership in order to find out exaction who, when, and how often students are riding the bus. Goal is cost saving and efficiency. Understand no parent wants a child on the bus for hours per day, and do not want to extend riding time. Hope is survey can help us find routes that are more efficient for families and can also save cost. Letter going out to families explaining study, expect study results should be in and analyzed in time to share at November board meeting.

(10) Apptegy/Thrillshare -- SLLIS's current website is through Wordpress, which is just clunky. Will be moving to new platform that has an app. Seems virtually every family has smart phone access, so this will enable more people to access SLLIS web info. Plus this platform is more modern and user-friends. The medium is the message and we want families to easily access info. Currently testing app. Will be sending flyer home when app is ready for usage. PTO officers or volunteers are willing to beta test if school needs that help.

PTO Officer action items for follow up

- (1) Kathryn still gathering room parent names, probably has 20% currently. Lisa suggest many Spanish program families are not on FB or in FB group. Kathryn will reach out to teachers.
- (2) Debi to lead uniform resale effort.
- (3) Tina to make ask for PTO meeting lead for next week
- (4) Kathryn to communicate upcoming meeting. (Consider--no food provided for kids? Officers have been paying for food and donations are insufficient to cover the cost.)

Next PTO meeting November 1st
Next Council meeting, November 29th