

Grant School Foundation
Meeting, Minutes, December 15, 2009

Present:

Eric Page, President
Monique Robertson, Principal
Bruce Bourdon
Sabine Steck
Chris Workman
Ron Zollman, Foundation Secretary

And Guests:

Lillian Keller, PTA Treasurer
Shirley Demer

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 pm at Grant Elementary School.

The minutes of the Foundation's previous meeting, dated October 27, 2009 were approved (as amended to reflect correct names/roles of attendees).

Mr. Workman gave a report concerning the status of binding directors' and officers' liability insurance. He explained that he would confirm that appropriate disclosures were made in writing to the insurer underwriting the insurance. Various questions were asked and answered.

Mr. Page presented a brief update that he continues to talk with the PTA about investigating the possibility of merging with the PTA; his focus is more towards a merger than on forming a new organization, a PTO, that both the PTA and Foundation might merge into. He confirmed that if there is a merger, there is no obstacle to the PTA organizing the Gala.

Mr. Page led a discussion about the Grant Gala "Fund an Item" options. He described at least seven options that have been suggested as possibilities, including:

- A new marquee for the outside of the school;
- Improvements to the lunch arbor, in landscaping, benches, and rotten wood;
- The rear wall of the Middle School;
- The Gekko Garden;
- Spanish instruction;
- A storage shed for PE equipment;
- Paying the salary of the school science coordinator (roughly \$25,000 per year for 27 hours per week).

Principal Robertson stated that one of her goals is to bring the Middle School and Elementary School towards more of a shared identity. She would recommend against any project that specifically helps only one or the other.

Mr. Page recommended that the Foundation pursue opportunities to fund capital improvements, rather than salaries or temporary efforts that will continue to need a repeat of the funds every year.

The Foundation Board discussed the Gekko Garden at length, including the lack of an initial phase that could be accomplished at a cost close to the typical profit of the Grant Gala (the first phase of the estimated \$87,000 project was previously estimated to cost roughly \$75,000 - \$77,000).

Following discussion, **the Foundation resolved** unanimously to have the 2010 Gala support a goal of raising \$20,000 for meaningful, noticeable improvements to the benches, landscaping, and wood at the lunch arbor.

Further, the **Foundation resolved** to discuss **fundraising efforts for the Gekko Garden** improvement, and opportunities to help move that forward, as a regular topic at future meetings of the Foundation. Various Foundation Directors also urged that the Gekko Garden be considered the first priority for funding at the Gala in 2011, assuming that the Gekko Garden is able to start fundraising so that the Gala may fill in necessary funds to complete the project or to complete the initial phase mentioned above.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron S. Zollman, Foundation Secretary