

Commodore Parent-Teacher Group

A family, school, community partnership

Meeting Minutes for November 18, 2014

Welcome

Administrator Updates: both had a previous scheduled meeting so could not attend

Teacher Reports: none present

Visitor Reports: Matt Schlein, Elizabeth Werner-Gavin (Vista/AmeriCorp), Josh Carter (Vista/AmeriCorp)

Matt started with an overview of the program - This is the 15th year of Walden. Walden's curriculum is based on Thoreau's philosophies. The strengths are in the fields of social sciences, the arts, writing and environmental studies. Unique aspects of the program include: a heterogeneous group of students; has been a cost saver for the district by keeping some high needs students in the district; (per pupil cost is on par with the average per pupil cost in the building); Walden currently has two students tuitioning into the program from out of district; the Walden program has a relationship with the Willowell Foundation; a higher percentage of Walden kids go onto secondary school than from their cohort in the regular high school; Matt shared information about the Ethiopian exchange and partnership. The teachers are arriving the last week of April and the first week of May.

Questions from the group ensued.

Student Report: none

Recap minutes: check

Member updates:

- **New meeting date proposal**....first choice - second Wednesday of the month; second choice - fourth Wednesday; perhaps third Thursday? no DECEMBER meeting
- **Grants: no new grants**
- **E-News:** So far, so good ☺
- **Rummage Sale** - April 11th; Holly has already collected lots of things and has secured a storage space. She has the chance to display items in the window of Kennedy Brothers - will start decorating this Sunday at 3:00 for the Christmas holidays; Holly proposed a collection date before Christmas on Saturday, Dec 13th in the morning at Kennedy Brothers from 9-11
- **Lecture Event/Series:** Lynn R and Tania offered to be on this sub-committee; Thinking about offering something in February, March, April and perhaps May

Narrowed down to four themes - Talking to your teen about sex; cyber safety, college safety issues and planning for college/gap year; Kristina will run the ideas by Jay/Stephanie and then choose dates and look for speakers

- **Parent Group in the future:** Started brainstorming how to fill in the gaps...

Notes from last meeting "Kristina has played a huge role in the start up and maintenance of this group - thank you! Since her son is a senior, she will most likely not be as involved in the future so we will need to talk about what the structure of the group will look like next year - who will be in charge of the funds? Setting agenda? Webpage - posting minutes and updates? Parent teacher night - manning the table; grants; eNews; Rummage Sale; teacher appreciation week etc... It was suggested that we should list all the main responsibilities throughout the year and then use a meeting in the Spring to divvy up the jobs; **Add this to the December agenda so we can start preparing for next year"**

- **Website:** Kristina submitted an update; it has yet to be uploaded to the site
- **Our meeting date:** no meeting in December; stay tuned for January date

Next regular meeting: