

The Summit Preparatory School of Southwest Missouri
SPO Board Minutes
November 18, 2010

Present:

Anne Mason
Nicole Lawrence
Jason Ward
Jody Schaad
Becky Breckner
Jill Nieman
Sandy Frye
Sara Thompson
Kristin Walker

Absent:

Pat Misterovich
Nicole Keech
Jennifer Grace Duran
Arlene Stenger
Amy Vaughn
Terianne Love
Jennifer Johnson
Sue Massey
Kim Jones
Amy Meriweather

Staff and Guests:

Karen Sweeney
Kathy Reynolds
Lara Garrett
Becky Alexander
Lela Panagides
Mark NeSmith
James Clary
Stephanie Perkins
Anne Winkler
Angie Workman
Jessica Idelman
Greg Walker

Opening: Anne Mason called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. and presented the agenda. Introductions were made. Minutes from October's meeting were amended to add Natalie Shimizu as present at last months meeting and change the spelling of Joe and Mary Reichard to the correct spelling. Minutes were approved with these changes.

Treasurers Report: Jason Ward reported that our current school year 2010/2011 YTD balance is \$2,873.00. We made \$107.36 at the Garbo's Family Night and a total of \$489.79 for the Fuddruckers Family Night., bringing our total school year 2010/2011 YTD Family Night totals to \$672.15.

Gala: Anne Mason reported that over \$70,000 was made.

Lunch Update: Kristin Walker reported that it is being proposed that Bistro Catering will take over our School Lunch Program starting after Christmas.

Bistro Catering is headed by James Clary and owned by Pyramid Foods, known in Springfield, as Price Cutter. Bistro Catering will also be taking over the staffing of school lunches so that not as much parental help will be needed. On November 30th from 3:30 – 5:00 pm there will be a taste testing of possible menu items for students and parents, donations will be accepted to help off set the cost of the food.

Bistro Catering will be working with staff and parents to design a menu that is healthy, tasty and visually appealing. Bistro Catering welcomes ongoing input so we can make our lunch program the best. Bistro Catering also proposed future opportunities to conduct and work with students and families to make food an integrated part of our curriculum and lives through nutrition and cooking classes.

“Waiting for Superman”: Anne Mason reported that we had 39 people in attendance to see the movie.

Lela Panagides, a Summit parent, spoke and has offered to chair a committee to help the Summit reach out to area schools to help raise the “bar” of education in Springfield

Lela Panagides provided the following in her report:

Statistics from the Mayor’s Commission on Children report, in Springfield:

32% of students are on the free or reduced lunch program and 50% of students are eligible (up from 38% three years ago)

25% of pre-school age children are not prepared to enter kindergarten

23.8% of students live below the federal poverty line

Almost 70% of households in Springfield make less than the national average of \$52,175

Studies have found that people coming from a disadvantaged family are more likely to commit crimes and drop out of school. Studies have also found that \$1 spent on a child’s education today will equate to \$17 in the future.

Fall Concert: Mr. Keech has a link to utube on his school website of the concert, broken down by grade. Members expressed an interest at the meeting for DVD’s of the concert to be available for sale.

Class Representative Reminders: from Anne Mason, please turn in your Gala basket donation list for tax donation letters. Remember to copy your teacher on all class emails and also, remind families to check the Summit website every week to read the teachers weekly newsletter.

A discussion was held on how to best disseminate the teacher weekly newsletters to parents.

Missouri Safe Schools/Anti-Bullying Legislation House Bill 1751: Presented by Guest Speaker Stephanie Perkins.

Stephanie told us about House Bill 1751 that will go before the Missouri House in the spring of 2011. It is a bipartisan bill and Sarah Lampe is the main sponsor of this legislation. For detailed information about the bill go to www.safeschoolsmissouri.org

Teacher Requests for SPO Funding: Lara Garrett and Becky Alexander presented a prioritized Professional Development Proposal, including four items. The Board approved their request for three of the four, which are: Professional Memberships and

Subscriptions to 8 publications for \$577; 4 Workshops and Conferences for a cost of \$1096; visits to some area Independent schools, two teachers per trimester, with travel expenses and substitute teachers included, with an approximate total of \$650.

The Directors and teachers who are given the opportunity to attend these conferences, visit other schools or participate in the memberships will be able to share the information and resources with other teachers during staff meetings and professional development days.

Once more SPO funds are available, the SPO hopes to approve the last proposal of two sets of Professional Development Materials for \$290; and a large United States map that would be housed on the 3rd floor.

Trivia Night: Committee chair: Anessa Musgrave told us the theme this year will be “Are you smarter than a Summit Student?” The committee hopes to include our Summit students in the question process via prerecorded video questions. The event date is 3/11/11 at 425 Downtown (425 Walnut St). The cost for the rental space is \$500 and we can bring in our own alcohol and food. Auction items are needed. Leah Blakey has volunteered to help with the Silent Auction.

Upcoming Events:

1. Community Open House on 11/20/10 – Kathy Reynolds
Hours 8:30-11:30
There will be tours, a power point presentation, food and drinks
It is a good time for anyone interested in seeing The Summit to come and look around and get questions answered
2. Chesterfield Village Business Open House on 11/22/10 – Kathy Reynolds
The school will host the area businesses and provide lunch
3. Silpada Jewelry Party on 12/4/10 – Anne Mason
At The Summit from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. 30% of all proceeds will be donated to the school.
4. Panera Bread Family Night on 12/9/10
At the Battlefield location from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. 10% of total receipts will be donated to the school. Families just need to say they are with The Summit. We recommend that families by Panera Scrip cards in advance and use them to pay for their dinner that night, so we get double the benefit!
5. Parent Mixer on 2/4/11 – Kathy Reynolds
We are asking every Summit family to take a potential family out for dinner (more details to follow) and then bring them back to The Summit for coffee and dessert.

Board of Trustees Report - Presented by Anne Winkler. The recruitment to expand the Board is going well, current community members showing an interest in being on the Board of Trustees are: Doug Roller, Howard Fisk, Sherry Honeycutt, Cindy Stein, Louise Morgan and Susan Holiday. Community members that have been contacted but we are

sure of their interest level yet are: Sally Hargis, John Simmons, Don Babb and John Timson and Shara Cash. Parent parents nominated for the Board are: Angie Workman, Billy Kimmons, Jennifer Huckfeldt, Eddie Lawrence, Louis Krenn and Carl Reigel, Greg Walker.

The Board of Trustees is hoping to have 8 new members in place starting 1/1/11.

We currently have over \$700,000 in pledges to the Capital Campaign; Anne is pleased with that number. We are in the process of starting our audit (Karen Sweeney said it will start tomorrow).

Anne expects tuition to increase next school year. She noted we have not had an increase in the last two years and expects it to be raised by 3%.

The Board of Trustees is very focused on communication to The Summit community and wants to keep information transparent. If parents have input/ideas of how the Board of Trustees can communicate better, please let them know.

We are continuing to look at protecting and branding our Summit name. A suggestion, under consideration, is referring to the school as "The Summit Prep".

Head of School Report: Karen told us that the school is looking to work with the FACTS Tuition Management Program to handle and streamline our tuition payments. The school administration will try to predict parents total expenses prior to the beginning of the school year and then families will be able to pick a payment plan that works best for them. FACTS is very diligent in communicating to parents and they will know in advance when funds will be drawn from their account. The next step in this process will be for FACTS to meet with the SPO Board.

The playground equipment was ordered this week. Two weeks after we receive notice from the playground manufacturer it can be installed. We had a new, lower bid for the fence after the gala. If there are funds left over after installation of the fence, parents donating funds for the fence may be contacted as to the use of such funds (possibly for the installation of water fountains).

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Minutes prepared by:
Jody Schaad
2010/2011 SPO Secretary