Minutes from Special PTA Meeting
May 5, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Members present:
Barb Allen
Amy Dreisbach
Melissa Rausch
Erin Kolschowsky
Karrie Donat
Paula Schultz
Deb Loughman
Theresa Johnson
Rob Johnson
Amy Toth
Jen Meilke
Michelle Joyce
Lisa Folkening
Trish Figliomeni
Jeff Grisenthwaite
Julie DeCero
Beth Kist
Lisa McTigue
Corinne Potter
Rita Brezina
Valerie Hardy
Tiffany Kuelthau
Carla Cash
Matt Cash

Discussion regarding the motion to give $4,500 from PTA reserves to help cover the costs for the 3 teams advancing to Destination ImagiNation Global Finals in Knoxville, TN

Deb L. – recent fundraising success, any chance of amending the motion?

Lisa M. – Posiitve, put interest into DI; amended amount – Lisa's team not asking for any money because fundraising efforts have gone so well

Corinne P. – How did bake sale and other fundraisers have money break down across teams?

Lisa M. – Bake sale divided by number of kids (19) and given proportionately across teams; Lemon Tree gave $5,000 to divide across teams (note from Tim Canning saying if he could see the look on the kids' faces when they heard he was making that significant a donation again and again, he would); Lemon Tree logo on the back of the shirts as a thank you

Amy D. – Who has been the steward of all of the money? Where does everything stand?

Lisa M. – No more money needed

Julie D. – About half-way there; grandparents gave corporate donations, lemonade stand, bake sale proceeds, cost remaining is about $1,000 per kid (required by Team Illinois – purchase t-shirts to wear at closing ceremonies) -- $3,000-$4,000 to raise to cover rest of cost

Deb L. – Big supporter of DI, but at what level of support?

Lisa M. – What are people comfortable with?

Deb L. – What are the teams looking for, Julie?

Julie D. – Grateful for whatever support; recognize complicated issue; PTA programming and funds raised has changed quite a bit from kids' programming to capital improvements; 6 kids on team, several dollars left ($250 for kids on Julie's team – 6 plus kids on Jeff's team – 6) so 12 total x $250 ($3,000 total)

Deb L. – Would that be fully funded?

Amy D. – Sam doing this; had no idea that this would cost $1,000 to attend; Whittier has really pushed DI in the past; not unfair to ask for $250 per kid; school has been very supportive of; people upset about supporting it, is this something we need to look at supporting

Melissa R. – PTA has been supporting it; $4,500 is a lot of money; I don't know what the right number is; number is now decreased; if it were to pass, $4,500 is 10% of PTA's budget for the year; number to grapples with

Jen M. – All on same page that PTA should support in some way DI? Just how much is the question?

Trish F. – Support packets/materials already

Deb L. – Switched a few years back to supporting only materials and not registration

Rita –Because so many teams starting to apply…

Jen M. – Hard to budget for it; PTA wanted to support, but hard to budget for it; so if people want money they need to come to the PTA meetings to suggest another way of funding/forecasting

Rita – DI background – regionals ($80 entry per team – divided by team members – typically around 6); knew about Globals, my that's a lot of money but… By the time you divide it out by families for regionals and state, not an earth-shattering amount of money. Globals – more! Historically, PTA has supported teams advancing to Globals but that amount has varied (PAST AMOUNTS IN EMAIL)

Erin K. – Budget for just the supplies… $1,200 (spent $900 - $300 of that can still be allocated…)

Melissa R. – Catch latecomers up – Lisa's team has withdrawn request because they are fully funded, so monetary needs have decreased to just help cover costs for the remaining two teams.

Jen M. - $2,700 – budget up for grabs if $300 from DI spread out. Different number from $4,500.

Jeff G. – Original amount $25,000-$30,000 for DI families for kids and parent chaperones when all is said and done. With donations, Jeff and Julie's teams each have $5,000 remaining in terms of outstanding costs. $3,000 if given by the PTA would be split between these two teams.

Julie D. – Questions from past years? It's been across the board about how PTA supported DI (materials, registrations, etc.). Even if went over the budget, submit bill and PTA reimburse.

Barb Allen – Not precedential

Julie D. – Game night very successful. Strong perspective then about how money should be spent – kids' programming (not on basketball hoops or AC).

Val – Non-precedential; also perspective on no other school programs comparable (DI only non-profit program vs. others such as Chess Scholars, Young Rembrandts, etc. being for-profit)

Jen M. – I was thinking $2,000 total ($1,000 per team), but now that we know that we're at $2,700 in need, what do we think about that?

Melissa – precedent may take shape in terms of per student vs. per team

Julie D. – team of 2 kids vs. team of 7 kids

Jen M. - $4,500 is large portion of the budget; doesn't take that much more participation to get to a really high number; don't spend that percentage on anything else except maybe all the busses for field trips

Barb – How much needed?

Lisa M. – one team needs $5,000 and one team needs $3,000

Jen M. – Would the $2,000 help?

Jeff and Julie – Anything helps and grateful…

Rita – Carla, as leader of team in the past, would $41 per student help?

Carla – I don't remember that at all. I remember there being a really negative vibe about DI. People on exec not supporting it very well. Left with $250 total, didn't feel very supported in years past. This is the SuperBowl for the kids. Think we should support them, give them money, and let them go. Something does have to be put in place, don't have magic answer, so not sitting, scrambling every year; but put restrictions on it – didn't work.

Rita – Executive board is to be neutral; others have strong opinions on this issue and seems like there was some negative energy around the contentious-seeming issue leading up to tonight; has to start with information and people making DI-related decisions as a family; the situation could easily be "DI sounds

awesome but what if we get to the Globals point and we have to either ask for help or can't send you to Globals." Has to be an every family decision.

Lisa M. – Don't go to Globals doesn't mean not to do DI…

Amy D. – Didn't know about Globals costs, maybe just missed something…

Rita – Differences year to year in how info is presented

Theresa – More teams going into DI and to finals is a good thing!

Rita – But it's hard when there's not money allocated for it in the budget…

Discussion about possible DI-specific fundraisers in the future, teams signing off before beginning of the season about having received financial commitment info and intentions to participate in Globals if their teams advance to that point in the season

Val – Tabled discussion of future DI-specific fundraising and information dissemination since beyond the scope of the current meeting

Julie D. – Have money now, kids have great opportunity…

Melissa R. – Moved to amend motion from $4,500 to "$2,700 to split between two teams still needing funds as they see fit"

Rob J. – Seconded motion

Vote to amend monetary amount in motion – Unanimously carried

Matt C. – What teams originally asked for basically ($250 per student going [not already fully funded]?

Jen M. – Important..

Paper ballots used for vote on motion to provide $2,700 of PTA funds to the DI teams advancing to finals to be split between the teams as they deem appropriate

Val – Vote passed with vote - unanimous

Val – Any closing comments/thoughts?

Lots of good luck wishes from members to the teams headed to Globals!

Val – Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.