



the **GERMAN AMERICAN**  
**SCHOOL** of **PORTLAND**

## GSP Board Meeting Minutes

the German American School of Portland  
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### Old Business

- **Communications**
- **Guiding principles document**—no update. Mariah and Tammy own getting this done.
- **Board Elections**— What is status on appointing member to fill open slot? Need to recruit some candidates. Desired skills would be in running capital campaigns, knowledge of commercial real estate, project management... a person to help with the long term facilities planning is best. Karen, Sig and Blake to follow up on commercial architect contacts. Blake will also follow up with Patrick DeLeon on his interest. Correction to October minutes—Sam Cannady is appointed to a 3 year term.

### 2. New Business

- **Auction update—Special Appeal closed**: "Happy, Healthy Kids" indoor play space, kitchen improvements. Potential donation to pursue from Adidas and Nike. No capital improvements to the building, all items need to be portable. Everything else on track. Starting to target sponsors, SolarWorld is a potential. Date is April 12<sup>th</sup>.
- **Holiday Market update**—All orders but one are in, price tagging done. Volunteers look good. Merchandise upstairs and food downstairs, some vendors outside. More vendors signed up, with money in. Volunteers to bake cookies. Food vendors—Edelweiss, Fressen, fondue, Bavarian nuts. Postcards out by Saturday is the goal. Street signs. KINK ads also to run. Print ads in local newspapers. Basically on track.
- **Proposal for GSP Middle School**—Shannon Yokota and Martine Rehr-Zimmerman presented a proposal and feedback from the 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents. In a survey of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents, 2 were considering Gilkey, 7 would consider a GSP middle school, 2 were not considering either option, and 3 did not respond. It is unclear whether the 7 would consider Gilkey if GSP is not an option. The parents voiced concerns with Gilkey around perceived attitude, tuition, and location. Concerns around why GSP would support an Int'l High School when the GSP attendance in Gilkey is low. Strongest concerns around affordability and location. Discussion around reasons for GSP board's prior decision to not host a middle school, which include financing, facilities, and the ability to provide a large enough social environment. Several Board members with children at Gilkey discussed their satisfaction with the program, as well as their experience of the GSP middle school held for one year 2 years ago. As discussed in previous Board meetings, there is clearly a need for GSP and Gilkey to work more closely on how to educate the GSP parent and student body about the Gilkey program. Discussion also on how, if necessary, to influence Gilkey to make changes to accommodate GSP families—since both Gilkey and GSP value GSP participation. There is a Gilkey Open House on Dec 6<sup>th</sup>—could a group of GSP parents go? Question around could GSP start a continuing education or after school or other activities? Yes would like to consider.

### 3. Teacher / Staff Feedback

- NWM

### 4. Head of School Report

- **Enrollment update:** First corporate kids from SolarWorld expected in January. Their HR managers from US and Germany visited the school. **Enrollment is 154**
- **German Gov't:** Huge thanks to Sig and Gudrun who participated in the German Gov't workshop. We hosted 25 attendees. Big success. They were very impressed with the program, and in particular with our teaching staff. German Gov't is opening a new position a "German Language Consultant" to work with local high schools to keep German alive, to learn from our school encourage German schools in the Northwest, and take our model to Mid-east and SE Asia. Position to be housed in GSP building.
- **Update on National Language Teacher Conference in San Antonio**—Blake is the Northwest representative. Lots of interest in our school. Our positive reputation is growing.

### Committee Updates

- **Finance:** Ratify tuition in January, so need Finance committee recommendation and budget work in December
- **Facilities:** Potential building project one the 1<sup>st</sup> floor to carve out indoor play space. Blake investigating costs.
- **Academic Committee:** NWM
- **Governance:** NWM

### Upcoming Topics:

Budget discussion for December

**Next Board Meeting:** Tuesday, December 11, 2007 @ 6:30 pm