

TESPA Monthly Meeting  
January 17, 2024 - 6:30pm

Present - Ann Smit, Jen Donaldson, Megan O'Keefe-Longaphy, Megan McNeil, Sharon Ann Bonnar, Allison Kressner, Sarah Lapier, Kristina Kaiser, Chantale DeYoung  
Regrets - Katie Howie, Christina O'Connor

1. 2023 Wrap-up

a. Concerts - Absolutely incredible job everyone. We sold out of treats almost every night, and between the VIP tickets and the bake sales we raised approximately \$2500.00

b. Green Christmas - This went so well. Notes for next year - we need SO MANY MORE gift bags. Ditch asking for wrapping paper, just gift bags, tissue paper and tags. More than enough items for each kid to collect several things. Leftovers will be brought to Mission Mart this week by Ann and Jen (SMB Food Bank Thrift Shop is full). Thank you all so much for your help with this event, it is a lot but so worth it!

c. Holiday greetings - Ann and Jen emailed teachers and staff wishing them a happy holiday on behalf of TESPAs and gifted Tim's cards to Liz, Sarah, Lydie and Grant for all their support so far this year.

2. Account Balance - We currently have \$11,313.84 in our bank account.

3. Current and Upcoming Events

a. Seed Sale - Reception to the seed sale has been fantastic! People seem very enthusiastic and the timing is perfect. Sarah L. notes that Halifax Seed has great social media, including a "when to start your seeds" chart for Nova Scotia. Ann S. will repost this to social media as a reminder of the sale ASAP. TESPAs get 50% of the sale money, which is an amazing return on a fundraiser.

b. Stuffy Sale - To go online after Valentine's Day in School Cash Online, will be a general sale so available to any in the community. High overhead so won't fundraise much but will cover costs. Megan M. got the sample stuffy from Ann S. to show everyone. T-shirt will have the school logos on it, tiger because we are the Tantallon Elementary Tigers. Waiting on sale until Feb. as the company is currently experiencing long lead times but expect them to be shorter after Valentine's rush.

c. Dance - We do not have a date for the dance and at this point it doesn't look like we are getting one in time for Valentine's. Looking at other dates - Proposal: MARCH 28, 2024 for Spring Dance (Thursday night before long weekend). Ann S. will email G. Davy and ask to have this booked with the HRM. Room expresses continued annoyance about how hard it is for the school to book its own gym for school events. Discussion of lighting options since the in-room lighting seems to be "pitch black" and "sunshine".

d. Candy Grams - Last year these were time consuming and overly costly for what kids got. Need to raise the price to actually make it worthwhile while also lowering consumables used. Still needs to be worth it for parents to buy. Still school safe (nut-free, GF, dairy free - ideally). Megan O. proposes a pre-bagged treat and stapling the "gram" to it. Many proposals of bulk candy made. Jen D. and Megan O. will look into ideas. Will still be held as pre-purchase online, we need advance numbers and some expectation of equity to make this work and a school-based cash sale would make that impossible.

- e. Spring Fling - June 7 - mark your calendars! Many notes:
- Because it wasn't held last year the budget this year won't look completely the same as we already own many items for prizes, etc.
  - Keep silent auction online, have it end the night of Spring Fling. Fix issues that made the auction difficult last year. Why keep it online? It made so much more money than in-person auctions have previously, frees up gym space, takes pressure off on night of.
  - Keep raffle baskets as a night-of item and return them to being raffle items instead of auction items.
  - Use RaffleBox QR code for 50/50 instead of people hauling cash around.
- Ann S. to look into licensing rules for this. Jen D. working with Raffle Box for set up.
- Many games still need replace/repair!
  - Food. Event is during supper time. Jen D. expresses concerns about grills and burgers/hot dogs after last year. Ann S. notes that it will be different because grills, cleaning, transport will all be covered under the Glow rental, not our problem. But we should consider all possibilities - pizza?

#### 4. Funding Requests

- a. Jr. Library - New Librarian, Beth Rogers, doing complete overhaul of the TJES library. Bringing in consultants, new furniture, materials, etc. The Jr. Building would like to forgo the planned \$100/FTE disbursement planned for this month in teacher grants and instead put that money towards the library overhaul. Ann S. presents this plan, room unanimously agrees to award \$2,100 to TJES for library expenditures.
- b. Maria MacDonald (Sr. Gym) - Two funding requests from Mrs. MacDonald:
- \$175 towards a guest dance instructor for Grade 2s (instructors for Grades 3-5 already covered).
  - Ann S. proposes and the room unanimously agrees.
  - \$385 towards new frisbees for all use by all grades in TSES following a presentation by Frisbee Rob in the fall and demonstration of how much better these frisbees are for children to use.
  - Ann S. proposes with unanimous agreement.
- c. Farrah Curran - Pre-primary teacher requests funding to cover costs of a couple of full-sized, collapsible picnic tables for use at TJES. Jen D. proposes and room unanimously agrees to purchase 2-3 to start with more potentially in the Spring if needed.
- d. Adrienne Gouthro - Proposal for art supply room at TSES. Currently the room used for this is unorganized and poorly stocked. Jen D. explains Mrs. Gouthro's proposal. Room discusses feasibility, concerns about missing supplies, how to keep stock up and replenished, etc. Agree to look into it with more details about what will be needed, how to implement and the costs.
- e. Requests from Adrianna Cross, Kate O'Brien and Chantelle Nichol - need more information, actual budgets, etc. will return this to them.
- d. New Form - We need a better way to accept funding requests from teachers/staff than just piece-meal emails and verbal requests. New form is presented, highlighting that this can be used by us to assess and balance wants and needs, which schools/demographics/classes are getting more/less funding. This will not be equivalent to invoices, which will still be needed by S. Morris to provide reimbursements, but will let her and us know what has been put through, etc. It will be available to teachers next week.

#### 5. New Business

- a. United Way Workplace Campaign - We received a cheque this week from the United Way as TESPAs was listed as a beneficiary by two people for their respective United

Way Workplace Campaigns. These funds were given as payroll deductions and designated to us. This is amazing and such an easy way to give! Thank you, anonymous donors! We will advertise that this is a possibility and that TESPAs are an option in these campaigns!

b. Website - We have a website! Ann S. presents the sample site, requests funding for domain name and hosting. Request is approved. You can now find us online at:

<https://www.tantallonespa.ca/> ! Items of note on the website:

- Integrated Calendar - includes dates for HRCE, TSES, TJES AND TESPAs!
- Funding Request Forms
- Links to the forms volunteers need for schools
- Historical documents (currently just newsletters, will soon include meeting minutes)