



# PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Welcoming Families. Building Community.

## **Parents Association Executive Committee Meeting**

**January 11, 2023**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Denise Prince, Parents Association President, called the meeting to order at 8:22 am.

#### **In Attendance**

Denise Prince, Chris Bolger, Claire Farver, Heather Ricks, Maria Lisette Romero, Laura Schifter, Blair Staunton, Margaret Pearson, Paula Hopkins, Julia Ghafouri, Betsy Fenzel, Jessica Taylor White, Sam Mason

#### **Approval of December Minutes**

Maria Lisette Romero moved to approve the December minutes. Claire Farver seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

#### **Sustainability Department Update**

Sam Mason joined the meeting to update PA leadership on current work. This school year, the sustainability programming has returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Some curricular highlights:

- Grade 2 Eco Warriors
- Grade 4 and Grade 5 have sustainability teams, the students decided to raise money towards endangered species conservation efforts. Students are removing invasive plants and working to get more plants in classrooms.
- The Middle School is cultivating three grow towers from planning through harvest. Everything grown is consumed by students, in the lunchroom and as snacks.

A task force on the Board of Trustees is currently collecting data to help inform sustainability goals that will be included in the strategic plan.

Upcoming Speaker series in February with presentations from two authors and speakers who will address how to help our children move forward post-Covid, and inequity and environmental injustice.

- The Stolen Year: How Covid Changed Children's Lives by Anya Kametz, who will share her research on the trauma that COVID has caused, and how we can move forward together.

- Outlaw Ocean by Ian Urbina P'18, who will speak about the intersection of sustainability and equity in his award-winning book.

### **Room Parent/Wolfhound Rep Report**

Blair Staunton shared that we have taken a break on grade rep communications and activities, after feedback that many in the community were overwhelmed with the number of events. There will be an upcoming communication with news and information about upcoming winter community activities. Consensus among the grade reps is that following the pandemic, we potentially overcorrected for the missed time together with too many events in the fall. Moving forward, there will only be a once monthly communication from grade reps, unless necessary.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Margaret Pearson shared updated end of December financials, which reflect a YTD revenue of \$78,826. Some highlights: the library table brought in \$4k more than expected. Book fair expenses are not yet finalized. Overall \$79k rev - \$60k expenses = net of around \$18k. 8k. Next month, we will do a big budget review. Ideally, in the future, we will do a better job with estimates for expenses. We did not overspend, we under budgeted.

### **Development Office Update**

Chris Bolger shared upcoming plans and solicited feedback on logowear sales strategy. There are plans for an online store and a physical space in the newly remodeled development office where merchandise can be displayed. Currently, storage for excess stock is challenging.

Suggestions and questions from PA:

- Can we sell at events without distributing the purchased items at the point of sale? Items could be delivered to students afterward. Parent volunteers could sign up to sort and deliver.
- The middle school store could be stocked with pajama pants and water bottles - both popular items for those students.
- Could we send a communication to parents in November for holiday logowear orders?
- Could we sell hats and mittens for students who have forgotten them on cold days?
- The development office's remodel is lovely, but could be more welcoming - the heavy locked doors are not helpful.

### **VP-at-Large Report**

The upcoming all school Zava Zone event will take place on January 29th. All families have been invited, and there will be a standalone eblast reminder in the coming week. At the event, there will be name tags for parents and a logowear display table. Please reach out to Claire Farver with any questions.

### **Horizons Report**

Horizons attended gifts for good, although Heather shared that their display was not as robust as it has been in previous years and that she intends to connect with them to ensure that they are well represented next year. Lyon Bakery made a generous donation, but the product mix that was

donated may not have been the best items for our shoppers. Ex, jalapeno cheddar bread, while delicious, is not a big seller with young children and families.

**Closing Questions, Suggestions and Comments**

- Suggestion to add a standing agenda item ‘What questions are coming from the community?’ so that PA leaders can ensure that parent questions are heard.
- Could we consider a ‘meet the PA’ message to explain PA roles and function?
- Suggestion to have a PA open coffee after a k-5 chapel in spring as an additional touchpoint.
- Is it worth considering holding the fall all school open PA meeting in the evening?

Blair Staunton moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jess Taylor White. Denise Prince adjourned the meeting at 9:34 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Taylor White

Recording Secretary