



PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Welcoming Families. Building Community.

Parents Association Executive Committee Meeting

November 8, 2022

Meeting Minutes

Denise Prince, Parents Association President, called the meeting to order at 8:19am.

In attendance

Denise Prince, Jalene Spain Thomas, Chris Bolger, Julia Ghafouri, Laura Schifter., Blair Staunton, Paula Hopkins, Maria Lisette Romero, Jess Taylor White, Betsy Fenzel, Johanna Howe.

Approval of September and October Minutes

Julia Ghafouri noted an error in the October minutes. The attendance record was incomplete.

Denise moved to approve the September minutes as read. The motion was seconded by Laura Shifter.

Yes:8 No:0 Motion approved.

Denise moved to approve the corrected October minutes. The motion was seconded by Blair Staunton.

Yes:8 No:0. Motion Approved.

Head of School Report

Jalene shared about the Community Cares effort to determine what faculty and staff need, self care and responding to what all need to be their best selves at work. The administration has decided that Monday, November 28, typically a professional development work day, will be a personal day for faculty and staff. There will be alternative time made available for those staff members who must be present on that day (advancement staff and ITC).

She is thankful about the installation, and shared that it was a special community moment for St. Pat's. Jalene has planned 1 on 1 meetings with every member of faculty and staff. She has completed meetings with nearly three-quarters of the staff. She is partnering with Denise and Chris about additional stakeholders in the parent community to connect with. She spoke about the engaged families, and asked for us to lean on her to help support further parent and community engagement. Jalene is on an email listserv for area heads of school, and there are tentative levels of volunteerism with new (post pandemic) families. Jalene is not seeing this as much in the St. Patrick's community, but wants to make sure that we are mindful about engaging with newer families.

Jalene shared about the evolution of the changes to HoundsTruth. Karolina and Morgan had a vision for changes, with much feedback that has been taken from the parent community over the past few years.

Jalene is very supportive of their work, please continue to give feedback on the new format.

Chris Bolger shared that Karolina Canning, Communications Director, will be invited to join December's PA meeting to gather feedback on the new format.

PA leaders added that they felt that coming out of the pandemic, we overcorrected with too much communication and appreciate the streamlining.

Jalene opened the floor to questions.

Some raised that St. Patrick's could spend some time exploring the efficacy of our auction, the level of engagement and support from the community, and the event's broader purpose, either via a formal or informal survey of parents, as well as through frank self-assessment. The pre-pandemic auction traditions were raised as one way to garner further support. Inclusivity balanced with fundraising requires consideration.

Jalene shared that she would be working with advancement staff on a strategic planning process for the auction.

Presidents Report

Denise thanked all for volunteering at October's Book Fair, Family Fun Day and for buying greenery. Zava Zone on Sunday, January 29, is the family community event from 5:00 - 6:30 pm. This venue was selected as it is indoors, won't be rained out, and will fit children of all ages.

Budget Review and Approval

Denise thanked Margaret Pearson (in absentia) for her careful work at preparing the budget. She asked each VP to review their budget and raise any questions they might have.

Denise shared that last year's PA voted to increase PA dues from \$60 per family to \$75 per family towards the end of the year, but the change was not enacted, given the timing of enrollment contracts. This change would provide an additional \$5,000 in revenue to the PA. There was discussion about what additional budget requests would warrant the increase - a budget for grade reps to provide snacks for events, so that hosting parents do not have to fund on their own, grants for teachers, and some discussion about inflation and increased cost of goods all around.

Julia Ghafouri proposed a motion to set the dues level at \$75 per family. Blair Staunton seconded the motion. Yes: 8 No: 0. Motion Approved.

Julia Ghafouri proposed a motion to approve the budget as presented. Johanna Howe seconded the motion. Yes:8 No:0. Motion Approved.

VP for PA Sales Report

Johanna Howe reports that Logowear sales are very successful year to date. \$7,500 in logowear was sold at Family Fun Day alone, which tops many previous full year sales.

PA Term Limit Bylaw Discussion

Denise and Chris shared that in their review of PA bylaws, they propose for discussion and consideration term limits for PA leaders. Currently, the bylaws do not mention term limits. Terms are 2 years, but there is no limit to the number of renewals. Is that prudent? Should the PA consider adding a limit of 2 two year terms? The group will revisit the topic after consideration.

VP for Equity Report

Betsy Fenzel thanked PA leaders for attending the Wells Collective training on building an inclusive community. She asked for any feedback PA leaders wanted to share or had received. Some mentioned that breakout groups are less effective over zoom, while others enjoyed the breakouts. One comment was raised asking for specific and concrete kinds of language and phrasing to use with our children when trying to teach them about inclusivity.

VP for Sustainability Report

Laura Schifter reports that the Wolfhound Family Hike event was very successful, with 80 attendees. Erica Thompsn also attended and is working with the Sustainability Committee on how to make sure that events are inclusive.

VP for Volunteers/Family Fun Day Report

Paula Hopkins reports that Family Fun Day was successful overall. She solicited feedback from the group about the event. There was a discussion about the possibility of involving 7th graders in helping to run games at Family Fun Day in the future. This might reduce the need for as many parent volunteers for the games, as well as provide an avenue to engage middle schoolers who may want to attend Family Fun Day, but do not because they may feel embarrassed to enjoy a children's event. There were some questions about the communications plan for the event, and consensus was reached by all that the existing landing page for Family Fun Day on the St. Patrick's website could be a more thorough description of the event with FAQs.

VP for Communications Report

Blair Staunton reports that most grade level parent events have successfully taken place. There are a few that will occur in November, with all grade level parent events concluding by Thanksgiving. The Kindergarten grade reps have planned a scavenger hunt for all kindergarten parents and students. Grade 1 will host a father's night out event on November 17th, as a follow up event to the previously hosted mom's night event. Blair will connect individually with the grade 1 reps to ensure that grade 1 parents are comfortable with the events that have been scheduled.

Closing and Announcements

Room Parent reminder - At St. Patrick's, there is no official christmas collection for teachers, room parents will communicate that to all parents in their classes. .

Grandparents Day - some volunteers are needed. Connect with Chris Bolger if willing to serve.

Denise Prince adjourned the meeting at 9:39am