



PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Welcoming Families. Building Community.

Parents Association Executive Committee Meeting

April 6, 2023

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

Denise Prince, Chris Bolger, Claire Farver, Maria Lisette Romero, Johanna Howe, Julia Ghafouri, Jessica Taylor White, Margaret Pearson, Laura Schifter, Mary Beth James, Dan Spector.

Denise Prince, Parents Association President, called the meeting to order at 8:20 am.

Hoops For Haiti Report Chris Bolger and Mary Beth James

- The partnership with St. Etienne Parish and School is in its 29th year.
- Due to the pandemic and unrest, St. Patrick's has not been able to visit St. Etienne parish and school in 5 years.
- Initially, the partnership was between the two church parishes. With the Hoops for Haiti fundraiser, the day school became an integral part of the partnership relationship.
- The 2010 earthquake destroyed the church, which has been rebuilt, but is a barebones, concrete structure.
- The school has approximately 405 students, in a nursery-baccalaureate program.
- St. Patrick's funds provide for a school lunch program and also pay for teacher salaries. When fundraising does not meet targets, the lunch program is reduced. For many students, this is the only hot meal of the day (a rice and beans meal that is cooked over a fire).
- The St. Patrick's committee works closely with the parish priest and audits the books to ensure that the funds are being appropriately allocated.
- This year, the parish is requesting an additional \$3,500 so that all families can be given additional food for an Easter dinner.
- Last year, the committee designed curricular materials for St. Patrick's teachers to use in the classroom so that students can learn about our work in Haiti.
- This is the tenth year anniversary of the day school's Hoops For Haiti fundraiser. It will take place on May 11 and 12.
- How can PA volunteers help? By signing up their children, spreading the word to others to participate, consider making an additional donation, provide support to the committee the week prior to the event organizing and distributing materials.

Middle School Overview - Dan Spector

Denise Prince introduced Dan Spector, head of the middle school, who joined the meeting to provide a high level overview of the middle school experience.

- There are approximately 40-50 students in each Middle School grade (6, 7, and 8).
- Smaller advisory groups, akin to a homeroom that meets every morning with 8-10 students
- There are 15 student clubs, 5 musical ensembles, 8 sports teams.
- Graduates matriculate to approximately 20 secondary schools each year.
- In the middle school, the focus is: deepening the academic experience, deepening and expanding the student experience, providing a sense of autonomy to students, relationship building, and preparing students and their families for the outplacement process.
- The formal outplacement process begins in April of Grade 7.

President's Report

Denise asked if there were any amendments to the March meeting minutes that were shared with the committee. With no changes, Maria-Lisette Romero moved to approve the minutes. Johanna Howe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PA Executive Committee Term Limits Discussion

Currently, there are no term limits for PA Executive committee members. The committee began discussing the need to consider term limits, to ensure that there is turnover in volunteer leadership and to enable participation for more parents. The group agreed to codify the current norm of two (2) year terms, with an optional one year extension if the leader would like to remain for a third year in their position. Julia Ghafouri moved to amend the bylaws to add term limits for PA Executive Committee leaders to a two (2) year term, with a one year renewal for the position. Laura Schifter seconded the motion.

Closing

Denise Prince shared details for upcoming events:

April 18: PA Appreciation Happy Hour at Sweet Agave, 5pm

April 22: Earth Day in the Garden and Outdoor Learning Space 11am-1pm

April 25: Speaker Series with Dr. Mary Alvord on helping build resilience in our children 6pm

May 4: Final PA Meeting of the year, budget planning for upcoming year 8:15am

Denise Prince adjourned the meeting at 9:25am

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Taylor White

Recording Secretary