



PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Welcoming Families. Building Community.

Parents Association Executive Committee Meeting

May 4, 2023

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

Denise Prince, Chris Bolger, Margaret Pearson, Maria Lisette Romero, Claire Farver, Betsy Fenzel, Paula Hopkins, Jessica Taylor White, Blair Staunton, Jalene Spain Thomas, Mia Bass

Denise Prince called the meeting to order at 8:18am

Welcome and President's Report

April meeting minutes were accepted with no corrections or additions. Maria Lisette Romero moved to approve the minutes. Julia Ghafouri seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Proposed 2023-24 Executive Committee Slate

Returning Executive Committee Leaders:

Denise Prince	President
Jessica Taylor White	Recording Secretary
Margaret Pearson	Treasurer
Blair Staunton	VP for Communications
Betsy Fenzel	VP for Equity
Maria Lisette Romero	VP for Fundraising
Heather Ricks	VP for Partnership
Julia Ghafouri	VP for Room Parents
Paula Hopkins	VP for Volunteers

Newly Slated Executive Committee Leaders:

Laith Alnouri	VP at Large
Bridget Dadd	VP for Faculty and Staff Recognition
Page DeZee	VP for PA Sales

Denise expressed thanks to the volunteers who are at the end of their term for their service to the day school community.

Gifts and Grants to the School

- Head of the Day School, Jalene Spain Thomas, and Mia Bass, board chair, joined the meeting to present the faculty's two innovation grant proposals for the Executive Committee's consideration.
- Proposal 1 - Contemporary Best Practices in N-8 Schools Visit. A team of teachers and administrators would like to travel to visit a targeted group of N-8 schools to research and learn about best practices that might benefit St. Patrick's.
- Proposal 2: Positive Discipline Training. Positive Discipline is a framework that complements the Responsive Classroom framework that the faculty and staff already use. The Positive Discipline practices will help provide faculty and admin with consistency in approach to all students. Current school counselor Julianne Reilly is a Positive Discipline leader, and will be a certified trainer by the end of the summer. Approximately 25% of independent schools in the region use the Positive Discipline Framework.
- Jalene suggested partial funding for both grants if the PA is unable to fund both or select which grant seems more impactful.
- Treasurer Margaret Pearson advised that the PA cannot fund both grant proposals fully.
- Denise Prince asked for a few minutes of quiet time so that the group could continue reading and considering both proposals.
- Margaret Pearson advised that the PA has \$10k set aside for teacher/admin gifts. We currently have about \$10k remaining in the budget that appears unallocated, but we are "running hot" with expenses and ongoing events that have not yet been recorded, but suggests that we should decide today on the \$10k grant proposals.
- Consensus among the group after discussion was to fund each grant partially.
- Jessica Taylor White moved to fund both grants partially, with \$7k to Positive Discipline and \$3k to the best practices peer institution visits. Blair Staunton seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- Additional gift/grant requests from faculty and staff:
 - A front lobby design refresh with new furniture and decors
 - An AED machine for the health office
 - A Gaga Ball pit
 - Funding for a speaker series
 - Jalene advised that the lobby refresh and AED machine requests have already been planned for in the Day School budget, so the PA does not need to consider funding for these projects. - we will likely have \$1k left at end of year, front lobby refresher and AED machines are covered in the day school budget, so PA does not need to consider and fund these gifts.

VP for Fundraising Report

Mabel's Labels with St. Patrick's logo will be launched in the summer, in time for families to order labels for back to school. Maria Lisette is also considering a Charleston gift wrap fundraiser for fall/winter.

VP for Equity Report

Betsy Fenzel asked the group for their thoughts on how to make the Book of the Month more integrated? Suggestions from the group: Offer a package with all the books at the Book Fair. In the final Houndstruth, provide a list with each book from the year so that parents could purchase on their own.

VP for Communications Report

Incoming parents will receive welcome emails from the PA. PK is hosting a closing ice cream social on May 20th and will invite incoming PK families.

Closing

Upcoming event reminders:

- Trivia night is tomorrow from 5-9, there is a need for volunteers with setup beginning at 4pm.
- May 18th evening reception for incoming parents

Denise Prince adjourned the meeting at 9:12 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Taylor White

Recording Secretary