



# PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Welcoming Families. Building Community.

Parents Association Executive Committee  
April 13, 2021  
Meeting Minutes

Kit Ballenger, President, called the ZOOM meeting to order at 9:32 AM

## In Attendance

Kit Ballenger, Rebecca Kim, Johanna Howe, Mike DiMarco, Julia Ghafouri, Leah Corradi, Suzanne Burrows, Katherine Lucas, Peter Barrett, Whitney Rosenthal, Mashea Ashton, Emily Lawrence, Hillary Chassin, Imani Edwards, Annie Sabel, Stephanie Goldfine, Alicia Pizzi, Tashia Senn-Jone, Vee Solomon, Amanda Steiglitz, Lucia Cassidy, Chris Bolger, LaMeka Short, Jessica Bielick

## Welcome and President's Report

Kit welcomed guests to the Open Meeting and thanked PA members for their continued work on the community's behalf. The PA is offering a series of community-building events this month, PA in the Park, to gather parents for a safely distanced, outdoor social event. Sign-ups are circulating in HoundsTruth. Last month's make-your-own-pizza kits were well received among the faculty and staff, and the Sweet Sixteen social media challenge that followed added extra community engagement.

## Head of School Report

Following Spring Break, Mr. Barrett was pleased to welcome all the friendly faces back on campus for expanded on-campus learning, which offers longer hours four days a week. We are delighted to have 94.5% of our students back on campus, leaving only a small number of students learning remotely. The back-to-school testing following our one week of remote learning resulted in one positive case in the Lower School and 572 total tests with no positive results. This marked 15 cycles of testing with more than 7,700 tests of our students, faculty and staff, and contractors and only nine positives. This is a remarkable indication of the community cooperation and adherence to our COVID-19 safety protocols. We are so grateful for this healthy partnership of our community, including families and faculty and staff, which is allowing our students and faculty and staff to continue teaching and learning in a safe environment.

The St. Patrick's outplacement for the Class of 2021 was splendid, with the 33 students enrolling at 21 different schools. The largest groupings of students are three students enrolling at the Cathedral schools (NCS/St. Albans), Bullis, and GDS. Six students will enroll at boarding schools, and outplacement conversations with Grade 7 parents are already underway, starting this month.

Upcoming faculty and staff departures have been announced with the departure of Anne Yockel after her 26 years teaching at St. Patrick's; Clara Cabezas following her 14 years; Stephanie Mertens, who is going on to graduate school; and Annie Krut, who is relocating with her family to the Eastern Shore.

Chris Bolger is delighted to share information about St. Patrick's partnerships with Haiti and Horizons of Greater Washington. The St. Patrick's partnership with Haiti and St. Etienne is critical this year in light of pandemic challenges that community has faced. The Cake Raffle, benefitting HGW, is always a successful fundraiser, and Hoops for Haiti, benefitting St. Etienne, will return to in-person knock-out competitions this year. Cake Raffle tickets are available online, and Hoops for Haiti will take place in May.

Mike DiMarco and Leah Corradi report Horizons Greater Washington has been working on ways to deepen its impact by implementing a fall tutoring program and gave a shout-out to the incredible work of so many families who assisted with weekly meal deliveries to combat the food insecurities facing these Horizon families. Horizons is so proud of their work with Grade 8 students who led positive and robust conversations to develop collaborative philanthropic opportunities to best demonstrate who the St. Patrick's community is to the greater world.

#### Head of School Search Committee Updates

Thank you to Mashea Ashton and Rebecca Kim for providing a wonderful update on the search for the new Head of School. They are optimistic about being able to announce an appointment in the fall of 2021, due to the diligent and excellent work of the St. Patrick's community, Spencer Stuart, and the Search Committee. Supporting the process is a Head of School Search section under "Who We Are" on the St. Patrick's website. All are welcome to follow the process there, as we are working to make it as transparent as possible and share updates and welcome input and questions. The Search Committee conducted a "Listening Tour," holding 25 listening sessions with more than 175 participants from current parents to alumni and grandparents, and also learned from a wide survey of the St. Patrick's community. Search consultant Spencer Stuart is also receiving comments at [stpatrickshhead@spencerstuart.com](mailto:stpatrickshhead@spencerstuart.com).

Meeting Adjourned 10:35

Respectfully Submitted,

Katharine Reishman  
Recording Secretary