



PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Welcoming Families. Building Community.

Parents Association Executive Committee January 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Kit Ballenger, President, called the ZOOM meeting to order at 9:33 AM

In Attendance

Kit Ballenger, Chris Bolger, Peter Barrett, Stephanie Goldfine, Emily Lawrence, Claire Farver, Hillary Chassin, Imani Edwards, Johanna Howe, LaMeka Short, Whitney Rosenthal, Tashia Jones, Margret Nedelkoff, and Vee Solomon

Welcome and President's Report

Kit thanked all in attendance for volunteering and participating via a ZOOM call. Kit shared appreciation for all who participated in chalking the sidewalks in a show of faculty and staff appreciation and mentioned the addition of a balloon installation provided by Board Chair Mia Bass. We continue to be grateful for the efforts of our faculty and staff and want to celebrate the work being done by all during this challenging year.

VP at Large Claire Farver presented our January 29 Virtual Magician event at 6:00 PM. Fanfare will go home in the HoundPacks with allergy-safe snacks and items to participate with the magician from home.

VP for Fundraising Lucia Cassidy, Chris Bolger, and Kit arranged a relationship with a locally-owned business, Poppy Flowers, from which St. Patrick's will receive 5% back on purchases through our affiliate link. Be sure to visit www.shop.poppyflowers.com and use the St. Patrick's affiliate link.

IDEALS Event

Margret Nedelkoff shared information about the IDEALS program to benefit St. Patrick's Financial Aid Program and the planning committee's efforts to align scholarship fundraising

with St. Patrick's mission. IDEALS is a re-envisioned approach to fundraising given both the current environment of COVID and the changing landscape of our community.

Vee shared that the pinnacle of the campaign will be a live variety show on March 6, 2021, hosted by school parents Brad Herman and Elaine del Cerro. The team is asking families to showcase musical talents, pet tricks, jokes, Tik-Tok videos, etc., and submit them for the video portion of the show. As in years past, there will be a Live Auction and a raise-the-paddle portion. The IDEALS committee is in need of volunteers; reach out to Vee Solomon, Margret Nedelkoff, or Tashia Jones for ways to help or if you have items to contribute for the auction.

Parents Council of Washington

In her role as school representative to the Parents Council of Washington (PCW), Vee Solomon shared an upcoming speaker event, Talking to Kids about Racism. Vee also shared our students' participation in a February 9 Middle School Breakfast and an upcoming event with Ron Lieber on decisions around paying for college. All members of the school community are encouraged to take advantage of the programs offered by PCW.

Head of School Report

We are celebrating students returning to campus today after Winter Break and our week of remote learning. Fabulous chalk art to welcome the students back to campus adorns the sidewalks, so thank you for the positive welcome to campus. Regular COVID-19 testing continues for our community, with continued low rates of positive tests. We are grateful for this reality and for the behaviors on the part of families and faculty and staff, which makes this possible. We will be moving toward weekly testing by Capital Diagnostics on Saturdays on the Whitehaven Campus.

The new version of the HoundsTruth emailed newsletter represents a fundamental change in reading habits, but we hope the new plan to publish the newsletter on Sundays will be more accessible for the community. The new format is an attempt to bundle school communications. St. Patrick's continues to welcome feedback for further suggestions for improving parent communication.

The Head of School Search Committee is working on a parent survey and will coordinate to make sure the survey addresses parents' concerns and interests.

Meeting Adjourned 10:20AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Katharine Reishman
Recording Secretary