



PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Welcoming Families. Building Community.

Parents Association Executive Committee November 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Kit Ballenger, President, called the ZOOM meeting to order at 9:35 AM.

In Attendance

Chris Bolger, Kit Ballenger, Emily Lawrence, Imani Edwards, Peter Barrett, Merel Young, Sandra Joo, Suzanne Burrows, Jason Torchinsky, Katherine Lucas, Annie Sabel, Alicia Pizzi, Elizabeth Wright, L Smith, Johanna Howe, Merrill Smith, Whitney Rosenthal, Mia Bass, Christine Huve, Stephanie Goldfine, Katharine Reishman, Julia Jacobsen, Hillary Chassin, Julia Ghafouri, Amy Williamson, Jewell Samuel, Jennifer Frost, Claire Farver, Caren Rosenthal, John Cox, Libby Wilkinson, LaMeka Short, Karina Homme, Sara O'Keefe, Tashia Senn-Jones, Zakiya Johnson

Welcome and President's Report

Kit thanked all in attendance for volunteering their time and energy to benefit the school community and for participating in the Open Meeting via a ZOOM call. The PA continues with fundraising work, most recently via the sale of Greenery (VP Lucia Cassidy) and Logo Wear (VP Johanna Howe). The Development Office and parent volunteers staged a successful virtual Book Fair with two visiting authors and a new partnership with East City Books. The PA extends its continued gratitude to the St. Patrick's Faculty & Staff for their tireless work throughout the pandemic.

Board of Trustees Report

Board Chair Mia Bass identified the pillars of the Board's focus this year to be the following: General Governance & Fiscal Health of the Day School, the work of the Pandemic Response Task Force, and the work of the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Committee.

Mia shared that the Board's role with respect to governance includes considering ways of maintaining and improving the school, such as exploring new technology use, understanding the climate in the community, and identifying potential fiscal challenges and how to approach them.

This year, the Board's Pandemic Response Task Force, which includes physician-advisors, has been active. The Board is also managing the fiscal challenges this pandemic year has brought, with the addition of improvements such as the HoundPacks, increased IT needs, tents, personnel, and facilities improvements such ventilation upgrades.

Finally, Mia updated those present on the work of the Board's Committee on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, led by school parents Shayna Hammond and Garrett Lowe. Working in tandem with the Faculty and Staff Equity Committee, the Board Committee is evaluating policies in support of safety and respect within our community, including drafting a Harmful Language Policy.

Head of School Report

Peter Barrett expressed gratitude to all students, faculty and staff, and community members, in particular for respecting behavior that promotes a healthy community and continued on-campus learning. He also offered an update on current-year interest in St. Patrick's, as the Office of Enrollment Management is fielding applications for both this school year and next school year. The November Admission Open Houses had record-breaking attendance. There is a new 360-degree virtual tour of the campus online.

Mr. Barrett expressed an appreciation for the Rev. Ed Thornley, our new Chaplain, for leading our community during these challenging times, as well as gratitude for work of the Pandemic Response Task Force.

The floor was opened for questions and the meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Katharine Reishman
Recording Secretary