



PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Welcoming Families. Building Community.

**Parents Association Executive Committee
November 9, 2021
Minutes of Open Meeting**

Kit Ballenger, President, called the ZOOM meeting to order at 9:03 AM

In Attendance

Kit Ballenger, Chris Bolger, Denise Prince, Tashia Senn-Jones, Lauren Simmons, LaMeka Short, Jessica Taylor White, Alison Ottenbreit, Suzanne Burrows, Johanne Howe, Maria Romero, Mike DiMarco (Horizons Greater Washington), Imani Edwards, Claire Farver, Stephanie Goldfine, Joanne Soulouque, Peter Barrett, Josephine Harrington, Katherine Lucas, Benjamin Simmons, Jessica Sitron, Diana Allen, Vee Solomon, Sara Fagen, Tomi Fadeyi-Jones (Horizons Greater Washington), Zeynep Ersel, Zakiya Johnson, Merrill Smith, Hillary Chassin, Beth Friend, Whitney Rosenthal, Mia Bass, Kylin McCardle, Emily Lawrence, Mary Akinkugbe, Laura Schifter, Tricia Stevenson

Welcome and President's Report

Kit thanked all in attendance for volunteering and participating via a ZOOM call. We are so grateful for the collaborative efforts of the entire St. Patrick's community. The Wolfhound Grade Representative liaisons have now been activated with great success hosting grade-level coffees. The St. Patrick's community is eager to engage, and this series of receptions were very well-attended and -received.

Kit praised the excellent work of Diana Allen for her work on the Faculty and Staff Appreciation Breakfast, which was a great success.

Logowear and Greenery Sales are underway, and the PA is so grateful for the work of those volunteers.

Book Fair is just around the corner, welcoming three visiting authors virtually to campus. Politics and Prose continues to be a great community partner for our Book Fair.

Another upcoming community event is a Skating Morning, so mark the calendars for Saturday, January 29, from 9:00 to 11:00 AM. This is a great opportunity for families to get out and enjoy the St. Patrick's community. We look forward to seeing you there!

Board of Trustees Chair's Report

Mia Bass congratulates the Board of Trustees for their work over the past year as they embarked upon the arduous task of planning for the future of St. Patrick's, not only during a pandemic but with the public announcement of Peter Barrett's retirement.

The work of the Board of Trustees is focused on two areas: First, how to maintain the operations of the school and our community during a pandemic and keep students, families, and faculty and staff safe and healthy at this time and, second, having successfully concluded the Head of School Search, complete the transition to new leadership following a long-serving Head with the same level of success. There will be a virtual Town Hall on November 17 for the community to meet Head of School-Designate Jalene Spain Thomas. Questions are welcome before the meeting. Congratulations to the Board for their work behind securing a fantastic appointment!

Horizons Greater Washington Report

Executive Director Mike DiMarco is pleased to share the success of Horizons Greater Washington, the public-private partnership between independent schools Maret, St. Patrick's, and Norwood and the District of Columbia and Montgomery County public schools to support students from underserved communities. Mr. DiMarco shared the success of Horizons during the pandemic is due to the launch of a virtual platform in order to reach more students in a productive and meaningful manner. Horizons aims to remove barriers for families by supporting them with transportation, food, and educational needs.

Head of School Report

Peter Barrett thanked everyone who participated in the successful Head of School Search and our faculty and staff for their daily work and commitment to our community. Peter encourages us to put our tools of communication to use with the updated HoundsTruth, the fall edition of the St. Patrick's Press, and the emergency broadcast system alerts, which will become more active in the coming weeks.

Mr. Barrett is grateful for the continued success of Horizons Greater Washington and to the Parents Association Executive Committee for its work in support of the St. Patrick's community.

The floor was opened for questions and the meeting adjourned 10:18 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katharine Reishman
Recording Secretary