



PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Welcoming Families. Building Community.

Parents Association Executive Committee October 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Kit Ballenger, President, called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM

In Attendance

Peter Barrett, Kit Ballenger, Chris Bolger, Stephanie Goldfine, Claire Farver, Denise Prince, Tashia Sean-Jones, Whitney Rosenthal, Jessica Taylor White

Welcome and President's Report

Kit thanked all in attendance for coming to the Outdoor Garden and Learning Center for an in-person PA meeting. She announced St. Patrick's will be rolling out a Coffee Series through the Wolfhound Grade Representatives. These coffees will be 45 minutes following drop-off from 8:15 to 9:00 beginning with the younger classes, as those grades have higher numbers of new families, and moving up through grade 7. The coffees will take place at the Foxhall Campus.

Kit reiterated the resource the Parents Council of Washington offers and is grateful for the wonderful ideas shared across schools particularly in reference to Staff Appreciation programs.

Head of School Report

Peter Barrett thanked all in attendance for joining in the fantastic outdoor learning center. He commenced with saying he realizes it is easier to roll back on COVID protocols in reference to health and policy than to impose guidelines. To this end, St. Patrick's is taking a conservative approach as cases decline in our areas and we enter the winter months.

Mr. Barrett is pleased to share we held our first field trips, to Echo Hill for the upper grades, and the Lower School field trips will follow. The school is requesting parent documentation of vaccination records to fulfill chaperone positions on these upcoming trips.

St. Patrick's will continue to monitor COVID-19 in the community and has planned two scenarios for post-Thanksgiving classes. Students who travel on a bus, train or airplane may not be on site the week following holiday break. Those students who do travel, will have the option for virtual learning while they quarantine before re-entering in person classes. However, there will be no virtual learning available to accommodate travel needs. Grades 7th and 8th will only have onsite learning following break.

Reminder: Flu vaccines are due to be uploaded into Magnus Health by November 1st. Peter continues to be grateful for the ongoing cooperation of the St. Patrick's Families.

Erica Thompson, Assistant Head of School for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, shared with the Executive Committee highlights from a training she'd offered to the Faculty and Staff just before the start of the school year. As distinguished from Critical Race Theory, St. Patrick's teachers are supporting Culturally Competent Teaching, which includes responsive and actively anti-racist teaching. St. Patrick's supports celebrating all our multiple identities within the context of accurate historical teachings while introducing perspective thinking. Erica also discussed affinity groups, which offer our students and families offering a sense of place within the larger community. A new affinity group was established this fall for parents of neurodivergent students. St. Patrick's is pleased the first meeting went so successful and is delighted to be offering this group to the community. Each of our affinity groups offers an opportunity for parents to share resources, strategies, and camaraderie.

The floor was opened for questions and the meeting adjourned 10:45AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Katharine Reishman
Recording Secretary