

## University of Chicago Laboratory Schools

### Parents' Association

#### June 6, 2011 Meeting

President Peri Altan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Lauren Polite, the President-Elect, presided over the meeting.

Secretary-Elect Liisa Thomas announced the results of the PA Board election for the 2011-12 school year, which are as follows:

President Elect	Open
Treasurer-Elect	Tim McKula
Secretary-Elect	Angela Walker
Communications Coordinator-Elect	Nick Bogert
Volunteer Coordinator-Elect	Open
Fundraising Coordinator-Elect	Quiana Williams
Program Coordinator-Elect	Rachel Jean-Baptiste
High School Council	Kate Surmeier
High School Council	Annette Bacola
Middle School Council	Peri Altan
Middle School Council	Debbie Green
Lower School Council	Tonya Adelman
Lower School Council	Monika Bahroos
N/K Council	Meredith Daw
N/K Council	Cheryl Rudbeck

Ms. Thomas explained that no nominations were received for the position of Volunteer Coordinator-Elect. The ballot that was circulated to the members of the Parents' Association contained the names of two individuals running as Co-Presidents. While a by-law amendment which would allow two individuals to hold an office jointly had been prepared and voted upon, the by-law amendment was not effective because proper notice was inadvertently not provided to all of the members of the Parents' Association. Accordingly, no one was properly elected to the office of President-Elect.

Ms. Thomas suggested that a working group be formed for the purpose of revising the by-laws. Ms. Thomas stressed the importance of openness and transparency in the process, allowing all interested members of the Parents' Association to participate. She circulated to all present a copy of the by-laws and encouraged everyone to read them and provide comments on them to her. If the by-laws are properly amended to allow for two individuals to jointly hold an office, the PA Board could appoint the two individuals whose names appeared on the ballot to jointly hold the office of President. However, Ms. Thomas noted that officer terms expire on June 30 and, accordingly, there is no vacancy until that time.

Ms. Polite discussed the schedule of meetings for next year and recapped the year's activities and programs. Ms. Altan noted that celebrity speakers draw interested attendees, while regular business meetings of the PA do not. Ms. Polite discussed moving the regular meetings of the PA Board with speakers to October, December, February and April. Barbara Kern seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Polite noted that the school will not be distributing hard-copy calendars next year. Joe Kallo emphasized the importance of timely submitting items for publication in e-news. There was a discussion of the school calendars, where to find them and how they are updated.

Ms. Polite mentioned that Jennifer Rhind is researching potential speakers. One possible topic is stress and a discussion of the book "Choke". Other possibilities include a panel on appropriate use of technology, nutritional issues, finances and a university/Hyde Park update.

Ms. Polite noted that LD@Lab is now a subgroup of the Parents' Association. She mentioned plans to roll out a diversity committee of the Parents' Association in the fall, with side-by-side faculty and student committees. She also mentioned that Gail Poole is interested in forming an environmental committee, and Lisa Curci is looking at improving school spirit.

Ms. Polite then asked each person present to introduce himself or herself.

Treasurer Robin Melvin then gave a financial report, noting that the checking account has a book balance of \$42,1017.16 and an available balance of \$27,188.05. She noted that the Parents' Association will likely conclude the year under budget. The savings account balance is approximately \$108,000. Revenue was higher this year due to better-than-expected revenue from Rites of May, Box Tops for Education and Innisbrook, but expenses were also higher. Treasurer-Elect Lara Moynihan requested budget feedback by August 20. She stated that she will have the budget ready by August 25. The PA Board then discussed the budget generally, including whether Rites of May should be a fundraiser.

Ms. Polite stated that a parent survey is planned to follow up on the results of the focus groups that met in January 2011. The survey will be tested on the PA Board in July.

Newly elected officers then met individually with the officers they are replacing to transition responsibilities. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Laethem Stern, Secretary