

Minutes to PA Board Meeting, December 9, 2013

Attendees: Co- Presidents Tracy Coe and Lynn Sasamoto; President Elect Cheryl Rudbeck; Treasurer Kemi Alausa; Treasurer Elect Sari Weichbrodt; Secretary Elect Lisa Curci; ESH Council members Mekeda Johnson-Brooks, Triste Lieteau Smith, Sara Skelley; Lower School Council members Tina Louie, Cindy Marchessault and Audris Wong; Middle School Council members Nikki Gupta and Safi Runesha; High School Council members Debra Beinstein and Laura Lichter

Distributed Handouts (attached): Copy of data points from ESH/Blaine Parent Meetings, EF background from Jennfer Rhind and Christie Henry, Parent Email re: tuition petition, Updated Classroom Giving grades N3-8th , Speaker series flyer, listing of PA Board Members and other parent leaders

I. ESH/Blaine Parent Meetings

A. Lynn noted that Lab parent, Carolyn Grossman, who voluntarily facilitated the meetings, did a great job.

B. Summary of comments from October 2013 meetings on ESH status was distributed. Lynn wanted to hand comments over to ESH Council for addressing. During discussion of comments, it was noted that many of these comments should be addressed by administration and not PA.

1. It was decided that the ESH Council will prioritize list of comments from October meeting and meet with Christopher Jones and Jason Lopez for update.

C. Attendees were in agreement to not post meeting comments to PA webpage; will try to send comments to parents through Room Parent list.

D. Tracy noted that there was a follow up to these meetings in a letter from Tracy, Lynn, Jason Lopez and Christopher Jones in the Lab Enews and there was surprise on their part of the lack of response to this letter. Discussion ensued and it was noted by many attendees that they saw the letter but did not realize that responses were expected.

II. Executive Function Workshop for teachers

A. Handout was distributed explaining background on \$5,000 spent on Executive Function teacher training.

1. A concern had been previously expressed regarding the PA paying for this.

2. Explanation by Christie Henry and Jennifer Rhind, parents in charge of organizing PA speakers, indicated the history of a strong interest from parents requesting this workshop for teachers to improve this effort in the classroom.

B. Attendees were reminded that any PA Council's interest in hiring a speaker should be passed through Jennifer and Christie who have experience in negotiating the cost and details.

III. Parent Tuition Petition

A. A handout was distributed of an email petition among the Lab parent community expressing concern of continuing tuition increases.

B. Attendees decided that the PA should bring this to the attention of the administration but not play a role in this discussion.

IV. Fundraising

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- A. A link to the Lab spirit wear site had been posted in the Lab Enews.
- B. Attendees agreed that families should be periodically reminded about Boxtops collection.
 - 1. It was noted that this is why a classroom communications coordinator is necessary.
 - 2. Debra Beinstein noted that the HS Council is working on a Parent Advisor Coordinator for HS advisories.

V. Amending PA Bylaws

- A. Lynn and Tracy believe PA bylaws should be amended to contain minimum attendance requirements by PA members and clarify responsibilities.
- B. Given window of time needed for approval, this amendment should be worked on over Christmas.
- C. Various members said they will look up some language from other organizations that they are involved with that incorporate similar language in their bylaws.

VI. Spring Elections

- A. Begin thinking of board members for spring elections; there are numerous vacancies for a variety of reasons.
- B. Bylaws will need to be amended to exclude Volunteer Coordinator.

VII.) General

- A. PA School holiday gifts – Lynn purchased Frango Mints during Thanksgiving weekend for gifts
- B. It was noted that there was backlash for using the Garbanzo list for collection of funds for ESH guard's wedding gift. It was thought by many parents to be an inappropriate use of Garbanzo.
- C. Notification of Diversity Committee Meeting on 12/12/13, 9 AM, ESH Primary School Conference room.
- D. It was noted Blaine teachers will need assistance moving to newly renovated space in Spring.
- E. Handout distributed on PA speaker series; one speaker per quarter has been scheduled.
- F. Everyone was asked to get the word out on availability of 5th grade notecards.
- G. It was noted that student contributions to the Connections Memory Book was closing Friday, December 17; handout was distributed with classroom contributions to date.

VIII.) Council Reports

- A. ESH Council – no additional items noted
- B. Lower School Council – no additional items noted
- C. MS Council noted that there was an upcoming Spirit Day at MS boys' basketball game; additionally, they were trying to schedule a dance in the ESH front lounge.
- D. HS Council noted that there was an Ice Skating Party planned for Friday, December 17 for grades 9 to 11; seniors were having a pizza party at the same time.

Submitted by: Lisa Curci