

In Attendance: Over 100 Members of the parent body, including some faculty and administration.

Safi welcomed everyone and reported stats on parent volunteers, the relaunch of the PA website, the diversity committee recommendations, grant award dollars, the nationally known speakers, and an update on the state of the union. She acknowledged the outgoing PA board members, welcomed the newly elected PA members, thanked Sari Weichbrodt and introduced next year's PA co-Presidents Tina Louie and Audris Wong. She gave the floor to Christopher Jones, UCLS Executive Director of Finance & Operations.

Chris presented from a deck of slides exhibiting the past and upcoming facilities enhancements and explained the final steps to the Historic campus renovations and expansion. The renovations began in 2007, Blaine now has AC, more students can use the building, Library space was increased, update of the life safety systems throughout the complex, update of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, provided Lab experience to align more with the mission of its students, created excellent visual and performing arts space, increased teach and learn spaces by over 20%, 14 new high school classrooms, dedicated HS and MS libraries, new and larger HS lockers that will be together, none of which will be on the first floor, coffee shop, gathering space, dedicated high school nurse office, two way intercom, enhanced U-High writing center and makers space. Chris reported that starting June 10 all of the HS will undergo renovation along with Judd. July 11 the cafeteria will open and be accessed through the courtyard, which will receive new grass in September and will be off limits. In August Judd will be finished and the HS renovation will continue. By October, all of the construction will be finished. All of the logistics will be communicated via email with a full update in the Back to Lab communication in early August as well as submissions in Lab E-news in late August.

Q&A: Is the water tested? It is tested annually but also gets tested on Monday mornings to release any sediment from the weekend.

How will this impact Summer Lab? It has been impacted for the last 3 years but this summer it will only be limited in the HS space.

Safi thanked Chris and introduced Erik Heath, UChicago Executive Director of Campus Safety

Erik reported that he did a full-scale security assessment in Mid March. He worked with Christopher Jones to get feedback from students, faculty, Principals and the Parents Association through Safi. He compared Lab with two K-12 peer institutions locally and in NY. He looked for consistent concerns and themes in this feedback, considered a balance of best practices and the culture of Lab. The faculty wanted open spaces, students wanted freedom, parents cared about access to the students. Erik outlined 6 areas of improvement.

1. Visitor management – Lab is wide open with inconsistent monitoring
2. Security Staff – They're nice but are they trained for a real emergency
3. Security Technology – Looking to add cameras, students were "for" these as an addition to deter theft
4. Emergency Management – Annual training of faculty in staff for emergencies
5. Head of Security – School resource uniformed officer who is engaged and teaches safety to students
6. Behavioral Intervention – Threat assessment team that looks at behavioral intervention to prevent incidents. This begins in HS typically and will involve a team.

Erik said that they have already begun to engage the community and began implementation in Late April and early May. The new security technology will be for members of the community, parents, students,

faculty and staff. It will allow face recognition, cameras, and use of specific access control doors. The School Resource Officer is specially trained to work with students to help them make safe choices and teach them safety. The community can sign up for the safety alerts that are on a public listserv and each alert always ends with a recommendation on how to be safe in our community. He explained that the transition will take about 6 months to implement.

Q& A: Christopher Jones answers

How will changes be communicated? Use Lab E-News, email and in person opportunities in the beginning of the school year. Also folks can sign up for the Listserv.

How will this impact drop off and pick up? Doors will be open during arrival and dismissal, Lanyard use will be implemented for entry during other hours of the day and only one door will allow access to visitors.

A parent cautioned that during the implementation stages the school should be sensitive to the possibility of offending people who are told that they do not belong in the building when they actually do. He agreed.

What happens if an emergency occurs during the day? The school has the ability through the Connect 5 system to send out an email to everyone affiliated with the Lab school in 35 seconds. Robust plans are in place to house students safely and arrange for pickups. These plans are not common knowledge or posted for security reasons.

Do you want feedback from students and parents about the new lanyard use policy? Yes we do. Parent says that students have given feedback that they are against the lanyards and yet it is being implemented. Chris replied that while some may oppose it, students in feedback sessions were in favor due to thefts. Chris offered to stay after the meeting to answer additional questions.

What is Behavioral Threat assessment? It is a team used to identify members of the community who may exhibit signs of threat from student to student, or to teachers or from parents. They assess the threat on a scale of 1-5.

What local peer schools were looked at and do they use IDs? Latin and Parker, at one of these all wear and utilize IDs including parents, at the other, parents do not have IDs. Students at Lab in their feedback sessions reported to us (Chris and Erik) that they could not identify some of their fellow classmates and were concerned about theft.

What's the motivation then for lanyards, theft or violence? The new implementation deals with both.

Safi thanked Erik and encouraged parents to attend the September 26 PA meeting then introduced Robin Appleby.

Robin thanked the PA Presidents, PA Councils and parent volunteers. She reported the highlights of the year, opening of Gordon Parks Arts Hall, increasing the use of great spaces, the IT department has worked very hard to make sure that all faculty understand and use the spaces to the full extent of their capabilities, the alumni reunion is now moved to the fall season, the ISACs visiting team came this year and the 27 member team broke out and interviewed faculty staff and teachers. They finished at the end of April and Lab was granted the reaccreditation which will begin its 7 year cycle. This effort was led by Paul Gunty and Susan Devetski who will oversee the recommendation by the visiting team and evaluate if there will be changes or adherence to the recommendations. Then ISACs will reply and an action plan will come to fruition. Planning and operations will oversee the long planned growth strategy to maintain the relationship to U of C and have 60% affiliated students and 40% unaffiliated students attend Lab. The admission office for ESH is now located in ESH on the second floor. 40 new students will be admitted to the MS, 50 new students will be admitted to HS including 4 High Jump students who participate in our partnership with High Jump which Lab supports by providing classroom space and resources. Alumni Relations and Development now has a new parent volunteer structure. New this year is The Maroon Key Society, a group of students who are trained to give tours and be involved in sharing with the community. In HS the students are making use of the film and art studios and using the art gallery. In MS a new

connection has been created to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade for smoother transition and Advisors work with 5<sup>th</sup> graders to welcome them to 6<sup>th</sup>. The LS Faculty now has vertical teams so that teachers can maintain their high level of autonomy while making sure that education is consistent. The 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades began having student centered assemblies. In PS a maker space Lab was installed. In N-K the program of studies will be added to the website including curriculum in diversity equity and inclusion. Next year the Lab plus building will be completed and Judd 126 will reopen. There will also be a round table boardroom available. The Director of Programs & Partnerships is a new administrative role which will support furthering programs and partnerships without the need of admin support to implement and maintain those relationships. Director of Student Services Nicole Neal will take over for Kevin Van Eron who stepped in for Ken James. 17 new colleagues will be added to faculty so as not to increase class sizes, drawing the best and most diverse by recruiting in new ways so that Lab can advertise to and retain teachers of color. Bios will be available by the fall. In response to parents' frustration over not having an educational platform, N-12 will all use Schoology next year. We will be kicking off a new Lab schools website which was based on traffic of current website. It will have a cleaner look and contain a specific parent page. The 9<sup>th</sup> grade class increases in size. Alumni Relations and Development have adopted a new approach to fundraising by making Connections every other year but it will still be a community event. This year it raised 1.1M. Stephanie Weber is the new HS Principal. The MS will begin it's new schedule. The LS and PS will have a new approach to Computer Science. The LS will adopt a new vertical team for Math and all teachers will use Math in Focus, which is Singapore math. NS-K will welcome 130 three year olds in the fall and the Reggio Emilia style of teaching continues. Q&A:

What are the expectations for teachers to use schoology? At a minimum, every teacher will communicate with their class via Schoology, if they have their own website, they would still use Schoology by providing the link to their page on Schoology. Some will use it much more and teachers are training each other on the various ways to use it. The more that parents ask for teachers to use Schoology, the more they will. When will the ISACs report be made available? There is a copy of the 96 page report in the library if anyone would like to read it. It's not distributed because it's a document from educators to educators. It acknowledges that our growth and movement to two campuses has caused some emotional disruptions. We need time to heal because we are rooted in tradition.

When will the results of climate survey be available? There are 400 pages of data with 1362 comments that need to be analyzed. It should be out by early fall.

Where does change come from and how do you measure success? Most of the changes talked about today were brought on by a survey in 2013 with parent feedback, the math program change in the LS was 5 years in the making. Measures of success are hard, success here at Lab some say is shown by where our kids go to college. She stated that the next strategic planning committee should figure out those measurables.

Safi thanked Robin and introduced both David Fithian and David Kistenbroker David Fithian UChicago Executive Vice President described his role at the University and explained that the Director of the Laboratory Schools reports to him. David F reported that he will lead the search for Lab's next Director of Schools, will implement best practices, put together a search advisory committee, conduct open forums and include parents, faculty and staff. A page will be dedicated on the website regarding the search. The process will first have broad input then it will close as the process becomes more targeted and then the candidate will meet with the community. A search firm will be enlisted by the end of the summer, nothing will happen until then. He welcomes thoughts about the search committee or any questions regarding the search via email at fithian@uchicago.edu. Beth Harris who is a U of Chicago former attorney understands how to manage complex institutions and she once was on the Board, she is clear about her strengths and will work with the Principals. David's hope is that the search will take one year.

David Kistenbroker , UCLS School Board Chair, reported that David F. attends all of the school board meetings and is the liaison to the University. He takes extensive reports from Robin and has been very involved in Lab. Beth Harris was the exofficio of the school Board and has a great understanding of the schools. Q&A:

Parent commentary that she commends their choice of Beth as the interim Director.

What can be done to diminish turnover in Lab's administration? David Fithian answered that their job is to recruit and retain but when the best and brightest have spent a few years at Lab they then become Directors of schools themselves and so use Lab as a stepping stone in their career. He mentioned that a school in transition such as ours would naturally have this sort of transition period. He said that they do ask during the hiring process if the candidate is committed to staying at Lab for a number of years. Robin Appleby added that if she was a Lab parent, she would do her best to support the new HS Principal Stephanie Weber to ensure her success at Lab, develop her career and do what's best for the kids before what adults may think is best.

Safi concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and the speakers for coming.

Audris invited the PA Board in the audience to stay for a few moments to discuss summer PA duties. She reported to the PA Board that a retreat date was not obvious so a conference call will be set for July 13 in the evening to talk about Back to School plans, new orientation plans and to take spirit wear orders and an account for how each council will be attaining their volunteers for their events. There will also be a gathering of the PA Board two weeks before school starts. The PA Board may contact Tina or Audris with questions over the summer. Meeting adjourned.