

In Attendance:

Tina Louie, Audris Wong, Safi Runesha, Ann Grissom, Mariana Ingersoll, Sara Skelly, Caroline Grossman, Tracy Coe, Andee Stacy, Cathy Lee, Latrelle Kerney, Angela Clark, Shrunali Rai, Leny Leung, Gala Gomez Fidler, Karen Slimmon, Amanda Norton, Yvette Killian, Claudia Roeder, Grace Chae, Sieglinde Lin-Seiwert, Susan Farmer, Krista Hogarth, Kim Stolze, Nicole Brookens, Christie Henry, Lisa Smith, Mekeda Johnson Brooks, Sairam Muthialu, Neetu Sharma, Judy Soohoo, Peggy Lim, Lynn Sasamoto, Noha Elsharkany-Aref, Lauren Polite, Alice Dubon, Tracey Quinn, Thomas Gaulkin

On March 6 and 7 via email, Tina Louie approved the February minutes, with a second from Monica Hughson.

Safi Runesha welcomes everyone and explains that she would like to explore how parent volunteers and activities can capture the community's needs. She introduces Audris.

Audris encourages discussion and wants all to feel comfortable asking questions and she reiterates the mission of the PA. In particular, Community Building, Parent & Student Support and Curriculum Innovation & Faculty/Staff Support are discussed. She presents a deck entitled: Forecast for 2016-2017, Parents' Association Board Meeting and Strategic Planning Discussion, March 7, 2016.

In ESH the focus is on how to bring parents into Lab and acclimate. In LS, the focus is on how to invite parents in the classroom. In MS, it's on how our students are interacting and in HS how to support parents and students toward adulthood. Audris would like to see the lines blur and have more involvement across schools understanding that growth makes it difficult for parents to get together. We don't have as many Lobby sales, parents' pop up shops.

Communication: Lab E-News should be the main "go to" for communication. E-mail blasts make it so that parents feel like they don't need to go to E-news.

Audris shared volunteer data. Discussion ensued: Promoting the social component of volunteering, personal outreach is always better but we have to limit the requests for volunteers. Carline volunteering is successful. The PA piece of volunteering is not clear. It was mentioned that dual income families have a hard time volunteering on the weekends. There's a lack of understanding about what constitutes a parent led event. It's important to harness energy to meaningful events. Every family should get a visual reminder to volunteer. Something like book swap can be easier. It was commented that parents don't realize who is organizing the events or even what they are. It's important to navigate parents through the system, get their name then follow-up with a call about how they would like to be involved. It was mentioned that some schools require families to give 2 hours in the spring and 2 hours in the fall as volunteer time. The volunteers currently are the usual suspects but that also limits requests out to the community making it difficult to get new people involved. Many people volunteer in the classroom so they opt out of volunteering for the PA. There should be more communication about the PA at Parents night. Parents on the PA should branch out and recruit parents at parent nights. The PA should leverage the time when the parents are at the ESH and revamp the new families orientation events. The new parent orientation for the HS is a good option. Banding grades and delegating the ownership of the event was suggested. Rethink the back to school events and there should be more communication among the Councils.

Financials – Currently breaking even though the reserves are 20K below the minimum, which means no capacity for new opportunities. It's important to look at the All Schools calendar.

If reserves are refilled at \$100 per family then there's a cushion. Immediate spending options were listed: If we spend money on All Schools events, those should be free for families to attend. Coffees just to get parents together in the mornings since families come from all over the city. Small mini events could be an option, like wine and cheese events, meet and greets by zip code. All are opportunities for parents to get to know each other but the events need to be sustainable. It was mentioned that a welcome brochure with ads from local businesses for parents could be a good partnership with the Chamber of Commerce. Restaurant week was fun but it could be done quarterly. The PA could partner with and coordinate with the Alumni Relations and Development office.

Audris continued with the deck, the goal of the PA is to maintain community and have an opportunity for parents to bridge from one grade to another. She asked the PA Board to break out into their schools and answer the question: What three things do you most want to accomplish next year?

ESH: Have a sustainable mentor program. Have an ESH event with RSVP w/ wristband, have tickets for food and/or a potluck picnic style. Hold grade level events and utilize room parents more as a conduit. Starting in N3 is key!

LS: Have grade level events on a regular basis like skating, picnic, field day or book club. Have more informal get-togethers without a big production value.

MS: Integrate new families and get them invested in Lab. Provide an overview/outline of calendar events for MS so parents know what to expect during the year. Hold MS wide or grade wide events for students and/or families. Reach out to volunteers that are not the usual suspects.

HS: Have an agenda for the P2P, Principal Chats and advertise it. Administration should inform parents of issues happening with kids and what to do about it. Figure out how to build community among HS families from disparate geographic areas. Better advertise PA funded activities.

Meeting adjourned