

Parents' Association Board Meeting

October 24, 2016

Location: Judd C103

Minutes

Attendance: Tina Louie, Audris Wong, Frank Baldassare, Saima Sufi, Liz Anderson, Nancy Stern, Krista Hogarth, Tiffany Flowers, Sieglinde Lim-Seiwert, Manali Barua, Amy Liszt, Leny Leung, Cathy Lee, Andee Stacy, Vanessa Copans, Lena Jessen, Claudia Roeder, Colleen Sheehan, Ann Grissom, Mariana Ingersoll, Nickie Brookens, Kim Stolze, Tracy Coe, Veronica Thigpen

I. Brief Report from the Councils focusing on upcoming events

High School

- Looking for Hosts for Restaurant Week (January 27- February 9 2017) - especially dinners for grades that were new entry points
- Next month will host a Parent to Parent (topics will be Schoology, and parents with kids in college will come talk about college - or open to other concerns)
- S'mores event for students
- Teacher Appreciation lunch
- Arnie Duncan Basketball Tournament - Basketball Game for Literacy (will be Sunday after Thanksgiving)
- MLK project planned for February 1, 2017 (they are bringing a one-woman play production that performs at the Chicago Historical Society; it will be targeted at middle school and high school students and parents)

Middle School

- Meeting for graduation planning (and cost-splitting) with Admin postponed
- Principal Chats coming up (anticipated topic: homework?) November 3, 2016
- Giant Gym Night November 11, 2016 (will be sending email blast)
- Planning Winter Fan Day
- 7th Grade Roller Skating party coming up

Lower School

- Box Top Challenge: 4,000 collected, about par with last year
- Teacher Grant invitations to apply are out
- Lobby Decorating Party 10/27 with the Parents
- Halloween planning: There will be a Photo Booth in the lobby. 3rd grade parents will also be invited via homeroom teachers to see a Halloween Sing
- Family Flu Clinic has High School Volunteers coming 10/27
- Principal Chat on 10/28 with Ken GG
- Veterans Day Assembly 11/11/2017
- 11/14 Interactive Thankfulness Display
- 12/5 Lobby Decorating Party (may be moved to avoid conflict with Book Fair decorating)

ESH

Past events:

- Successful Walk to school event
- Mix & Mingle - with Learning and Counseling (turnout was low)
- Costume Drive was successful (68 excess costumes plus 45 accessories donated to Cornerstone)
- Childcare at Teachers Conferences
- Flu Clinic volunteers sourced

Upcoming events:

- Halloween Parade: Council will be on hand to direct traffic.
- Teacher Grants 10/28 due - responses back 11/21
- Book Fair Wish List - due 11/7
- They are very short on certain items for the Reusable Center

II. Standing Committee Updates

Diversity

First meeting was last Monday (10/17). Thirty people attended.

- 1) David Fithian came to talk about director search
- 2) Update on AIM and ISACS reports: Ken Garcia Gonzales charged with thinking through action steps
- 3) Main topic: What we are doing for the year. Last year the Committee developed strategic recommendations, and now they focusing on those areas of need
 - Community Engagement
 - Data and Transparency
 - Affinity groups
 - Program Committee
 - Ad Hoc Committee

Working on doing a better job advertising the meeting for people who are interested - getting the word out. Next meeting will be 11/7/2017 6-7:30pm. Encourage people to go to our website more to catch up on what the committee is doing.

Rites of May

- Tentative date of May 20, 2017. Administration would like to have a part in this. Committee to include Christopher Jones, Nicole Hood and Joanne Reott

Communications Update

- Getting better with having no gaps in the communication schedule
- Next submission this Sunday - published a week from this thursday
- Will be sending out reminders for speaker series
- Need to have better boundaries between Lab website and PA website in the sense
- Everyone check your websites for content - make sure they are up to date.

Finance Update

- Make sure all expenses are submitted
- Grants - making reminders for one last push

III. All School Update

- Storage and Copying

- We now have storage at Historical Campus. Will have key in the next week or so (C108) will have a key you can check out
- Use tax exempt letter and we have a copy card
- Family Fest was a lot of fun
- Meeting with Nicole Neal regularly
 - Consolidate requests and interest in programming with Kim Stolze
- Meeting with Nicole Hood upcoming – Will discuss homework and security. Council members should feed parent concerns/information to Audris and Tina so they can bring it up at meetings
- Book Swap coming up –
 - Introducing grade level incentives - (trying to get middle school to donate chapter books): grade wide pizza party if they can reach 1,300 books. The winning advisory gets to choose one book per person if they like
- Book Fair: Several components
 - Pop up bookstore by 57th street books
 - Encourage teachers to create wish lists – we will have a registry onsite. Deadline is 11/7
 - Fundraising tables and awareness campaigns run by students
- Spirit wear
 - Looking into having a campaign that ties into Book Fair: will have samples at the event

IV. Schoolwide Discussions: Ongoing issues

- Security
- Homework
- Parents desiring to understand the paths to feedback and change
- Director's Search
- Surveys – results available in libraries; among parents greatest concerns are around feeling empowered, that certain voices are listened to more than others, and socioeconomic differences poorly addressed
 1. ISACS
 2. AIM

V. Upcoming All School Events

- Book Swap
- Sarah Lawrence Lightfoot: Spread the word
- Book Fair: More information coming
- Restaurant Week: Every Council member should sign up to host a lunch or dinner

VI. New Business

- None

Adjourned.

PA Diversity Equity Inclusion Committee
October 17, 2016
6 pm to 7:30 pm

Co-chairs: Amanda Lewis, Beth Richie, Veronica Anderson

Approximately 30 parents, faculty and administrators attended the committee kick-off meeting.

David Fithian, UChicago EVP, shared his update on the search for a new director for Lab and clarified the roles of the search committee, Lab School Board and the University Office of the President in the process. He noted that the listening sessions with the school community had resulted in adding unrepresented voices to the search committee. He concluded with an invitation to parents to weigh in on the position description and submit the names of candidates. Then, he took questions.

Next, Amanda gave an update on the AIM climate survey and ISACS review. Copies of the full report for each are available in the high school library.

During the working portion of the meeting, parents agreed with the schedule for monthly meetings and signed up for the following subcommittees:

- Community engagement
- Data and transparency
- Affinity groups
- Ad-hoc Lab director search
- Program

There was also much interest in spreading the word more widely about PA DEI Committee meetings and sharing minutes from the meetings. Suggestions included posting meeting notices and proceedings on the FB Lab Moms and Dads page.

The meeting wrapped up just after a brief brainstorming session on programs and next steps. The next meeting of the Lab PA DEI Committee will be Nov. 7.

HSC submission for Monday Oct 24, 2016 meeting:

Since September...

- 1) September 20 - HS Parent Night. The evening went smoothly. Location was moved from GPAH to Cafe Lab then back to GPAH after comments from LS regarding acoustics. Maybe because food is not allowed in assembly hall or maybe because we ordered more, we did not run out of food like we did last year, and there was not much if anything left over at the end of the evening.
- 2) October 5 - Parent to parent. We discussed security, curriculum in terms of choosing the right classes for a student and who to ask for guidance, Schoology, and amounts of homework.
- 3) October 7 - HSC Monthly Principal meeting with SW. We shared the topics discussed during parent to parent and suggested she share the list of resources - faculty and their positions - that parents have to help.
- 4) October 13 - Attended principal chat. Again, heard the concern over too much homework. Morning was very well attended - 50/60 parents? Evening had about 10 parents.
- 5) October 14 - Decorated lobby for Fan Day. Raised \$119 from concession stand sales for the PA. Used reject pennants from ARD. Need to take decor down after event and store for future.
- 6) October 16 - Attended all schools festival and helped out with relay races. Not many HS in attendance at the event.
- 7) October 19 - Distributed water bottles, fruit snacks and granola bars, plus apples and bananas for those students with extended time for PSAT. Leftover water was donated to athletics and leftover food was donated to Kevin Van Eron.

Coming up next month...

- Collect volunteers on PA Board for Restaurant week. We will send email with Sign-up Genius after meeting.
- November 2 - Parent to Parent. We plan on discussing Schoology and sharing experiences of the college process through experience fellow parents (Liz Anderson, Jamie Brady, Kim Stolze) Maybe more homework discussions too?
- November 11 - HSC Monthly Principal meeting with SW

Looking ahead...

- December 7 - Parent to Parent.
- December 9 - HSC Monthly Principal meeting with SW
- December 15 - S'more Fun; Senior Pizza Party; Teacher Appreciation Lunch
- February 1 - MLK Project

Middle School Council Report: October 2016

Activities for October:

- Monthly Principal Meeting with Sandy Bixby
 - o Discussed various issues that came up during the principal coffee on 10/5, Schoology, Graduation, Grants, and upcoming event schedule
- Middle School Fan Day
 - o Attendance was light but spirits were strong
 - o All snacks purchased from Costco
 - o Will need to place another order for foam fingers and pompoms in the Spring
- Middle School Principal Coffee
 - o The Principal Coffee Chat was attended by 20 parents
 - o Themes that came up: wifi access, ERB testing, access and security for those who forget IDs, homework issues (amount, time during day, consistency across teachers, purpose)
 - o It was decided from this meeting that MS should also offer a parent-to-parent. The first one is scheduled for November 3rd from 8am to 9am.
- Advisory Parent Updates
 - o An Update was sent to all Advisory Parents
 - o Despite specifically saying that MS Advisory Parents did not have Schoology Group permission and asking Advisory Parents to communicate via a group email, there was still confusion over how to create a group message.
 - o We will continue to ask Advisory Parents to send out updates to the parents in their Advisories informing parents of upcoming PA events and also to organize a parent event.
- Grants
 - o We were invited to and presented at a 7th grade faculty meeting. Because of the timing of our process and the schedule of faculty meetings, we missed the window for being able to present at a meeting with all MS Faculty. Next year, we should plan to approach Sandy sooner about presenting grants to the faculty so that we are able to present at an all-faculty meeting

Activities Upcoming:

- Graduation meeting set for Monday 10/24 with MS Administration
- Support MS Principal Chats 10/26 – one from 8:00 to 9:00am and one from 6:00 to 7:00pm
- Middle School Parent-to-Parent – Thursday 11/3
- Giant Gym Night – Friday 11/11

- Middle School Play Nov. 18-20
- Winter Fan Day Planning
- 7th Grade Roller Skating Planning – Friday 2/17
- 6th Grade Event

Ongoing Concerns from parents

- High volumes of homework in the middle school continues to be a strong concern for many middle school families.
- Concern with optimization of time on Wednesdays
- Security procedures and process
- Extended Day
- Bus Schedule

**Parent Association Board Meeting
October 24, 2016
Lower School Council
Summary Report**

Past Activities:

New Family Brunch, 8/20

All of the new Lower School families and a few current ones were invited to a potluck-style brunch at Cathy Lee's house. Over 65 people (including kids) attended.

New Family Orientation; Third Grade Scavenger Hunt; Parent Q&A, 9/1

The new LS families were invited to a parent orientation hosted by the LS Council. Meanwhile, the same time the new students were given a tour by the LS counselors. Afterwards, new families and third grade families went on a scavenger hunt to orient them to Blaine Hall. LS Councilmembers wore matching "Volunteer" t-shirts to answer any questions. The planned picnic on the Midway was rained out, so folks ate in Café Lab, Blaine Lobby and Blaine Theatre.

Back to School Bagels, 9/6

Bagels and coffee were provided on the first day of school.

Parent Night, 9/14

Principal Sylvie stated that her plan to is go back to Gordon Parks Assembly Hall for next year. The acoustics and shape of Café Lab were not good. It was difficult to hear in the back. Also, the length of the "light dinner" was too long. Next year, it should be shorten to 30 or 45 minutes. It was agreed that the rest of the evening flowed well.

Math In Focus, 9/19

Over 100 parents attended, and the information was well received. Parents seemed supportive of the change.

Coffee for New and Third Grade Parents, 9/23

It was attended by about a couple dozen parents and faculty members. Principal Sylvie had everyone share back to school experiences that have gone well, and not so well. Too much coffee was ordered. Next year consider ordering less.

Principal Chat, 9/30

Box Tops Challenge, 10/1-10/20

Collection for the fall campaign almost reached 2,000 for Lower School. Mr. Silverman's class brought in the most Box Tops, which entitles his students either to Halloween treat bags or additional Haunted Hallway supplies.

Walk to School Day, 10/5

In collaboration with the Nurse's Office and Gym Teachers the LS Council organized a Walk/Bike to School Day. For kids that had to drive to school, they were invited to job around the Midway to promote the event. LS Council allowed students to sign a large poster that was hung up in Blaine Lobby. LS Council also handed out Gala apples to rewards students for participating. UCPD provided officers to secure the event and provide encouragement. Over 100 students participated.

Fan Day, 10/14

The lobby was decorated well. Faculty, students and Alumni enjoyed them. It was reported that not many LS students wore spirit wear or attended a game on Fan Day.

Current and Upcoming Activities:

Teacher Grants

All LS Grant request letters are out. Principal Sylvie said that the teachers seemed really interested in applying for grants this year. There seems to be good "buzz." The new teachers seemed particularly impressed that the PA doled out such monies. We're hoping that it leads to some creative applications.

Lobby Decorating: Halloween, 10/27

Several parents have signed up to bring their own pumpkins to carve and decorate the lobby. Brittany Chang has offered to bring her Halloween stuff to be used in the lobby.

Principal Sylvie believes that third grade parents would like to be more a part of the Halloween celebration, so in order to accommodate, she's recommending that we bring back the photo booth, provide coffee and invite them to join the kids watch the high school band in the courtyard. She's going to have the third grade teachers send an email to their parents with these details.

Family Flu Clinic, 10/27

We have 8 volunteers assisting us with the HC's flu clinic. Two volunteers are parents; and 6 are HS students from the Red Cross Club.

Principal Chat, 10/28

Ken Garcia-Gonzalez will be speaking at the next Principal Chat. Promotions and flyers have been posted to increase turnout. Coffee will not be served at this Chat.

Picture Retake, 10/26

Vanessa announced that picture retakes will be taking place at Blaine S201 on Wednesday, Oct. 26th.

11/4, Professional Development Day

11/11, Veteran's Day Assembly

LS Parents will be invited to view the assembly from the GPAH's balcony.

11/14, Lobby Decorating for Thanksgiving Tree

Cathy pitched the idea of having the kids write down thankful thoughts and posting them up in Blaine Lobby. Ideas of having a tree with falling leaves (kids would write thankful thoughts on the leaves) or a turnkey with feathers (kids would write thankful thoughts on the feathers) were discussed. Vanessa offered to search for leaves on the internet so that hundreds wouldn't have to be cut. She's going to 200. Cathy offered to design the tree. Everyone volunteered to show up on 11/14 to tack up the tree, and make pens, leaves and tables available. Principal Sylvie appreciates the idea of having it be interactive with the kids.

12/5, Lobby Decorating for Winter Lobby Decorating

Sara pitched the idea of having weather related decorations for the lobby, including snow flakes, poinsettias, etc. Since this is a larger effort, a call for volunteers will be made through facebook, e-news, and the PA website.

Grade Level Events

It is the council's desire to build more community between students through "Field Day" type events. Sara would like to identify a "chair" for each grade

ESH Council Update

Celebrating Successes

- Walk to School
- Teacher Conferences Child Care
- Mix and Mingle
- Fan Day
- Flu Clinic
- Costume Drive

Upcoming Events

- **Halloween Parade**
 - Monday 10/31 9:30am
- **Teacher Grants**
 - Submission Deadline 10/28 5:00pm
 - Council Meeting
 - Response Deadline 11/21
- **Box Tops**
 - Deadline is November 1st for the first collection period
 - Drop Box located at the Front Desk across from the restrooms
- **Book Swap**
 - November 16 - 18
- **Book Fair/Bazaar**
 - Set Up 12/5
 - Event 12/6-7

- **Reusable Center** - At the moment, they are very short on three items in particular and would greatly appreciate your family's help in bringing some of them in. wine bottle corks
 - toilet paper rolls
 - paper towel rolls
 - metal bottle caps
 - plastic bottle caps
 - PARENT VOLUNTEERS:
 - Maria Herrick maria.herrick@gmail.com
 - Michelle Hitsch michelle.hitsch@me.com .