

## Parent Board Meeting Minutes, Board Meeting, April 1, Monday, 2019

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., John Rogers Boardroom, Judd Building

**List of Attendees in no particular order:** UCLS school parent community, Michael Norwood, Abundio Rodriguez, Christie Tate, Angie Holleb, Samantha Morales, Rupert Vaughn, Barbara Kern, Lauren Polite, Monica Hughson, Susan Farmer, Zainab Baig, Farah Noor Cheema, Ann Grissom, Archana Dharanipragada, Patty Jones, Mellisa Mchill, Amelia Klein, Catherine Rosenberg, Ramya Shah, Amelia Klein, Mariana Ingersoll, Nicole Beechum, Saima Sufi, Kevin Tan, Heather Tamburo, Jelani Frazier

*All council members will be addressed with their initials in this document. We will follow the notation as Archana Dharanipragada (AD). No surnames would be used. Meeting minutes from the previous meeting were accepted prior today's meeting. There several parents at the meeting, their names would be anonymous*

### AGENDA

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7 p.m. –

1. Announcements
2. Gratitude at Lab
  - Revision of the gift policy – status
  - Establishing end of year events to celebrate everyone leaving lab – ideas on current events
  - Parent –led gratitude projects
3. ROM Planning update
4. Challenge Success update
5. College Admissions scandal, discussion for parents?
6. Open Discussion

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– 8:39 p.m. Adjourn and Disperse

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**7.01 pm:**

**1) Introductions:** BK mentioned that there would focus on ROM and parent led discussion on Gift-policy. There were no individual council updates this month

**7.05 p.m**

**2) Gratitude Project and Gift Policy Status:** The school communications has put a strong gift policy, which is not been enforced strictly and there is some variations across the school regarding the policy. Families felt that they needed to express gratitude in whichever way they felt comfortable, whether it is a gift card or a token of appreciation in form of a thank you note, the suggested format and the suggested amount for the gift policy is in the initial stages, and more programming would be in place in future which would not put anyone in an awkward situation. ESH parents are particularly unsure of what to do, since there are multiple chances during the school year for gift-giving. AK mentioned that the timing of the class gift, end of the year gifts need to re –evaluated. Similarly, there is some confusion around senior class gift, that goes as to scholarship. A lot of parents are confused about all other giving opportunities: Book Fair, Class gift, end of the year gifts, and it is particularly complicated at UCLS because of its size often times gets overwhelming for all parents. There should be proper guidelines in the school handbook to ensure that there equality among teachers, staff and students in the process.

### 7.25 p.m

**A Parent Gratitude Panel led by Corrine Bal, Catherine Meyer and Mike Allen:** : A small committee has been formed led by three parents, Corrine Bal, Mike Allen and Catherine Meyer to express gratitude to school teachers as an another form of appreciation. CB felt that parents should gratitude to the teachers, and a lot of parents wrote to teachers about how overwhelmed they were with the recent changes at school. They would like to collaborate with Lab Arts, Library and Rites of May and do the teacher appreciation more overtly. Students could participate too, and use multi-media to have a broader impact.

- Mike Allen mentioned that stress among school community is real, and parents need to engage with school more. Family days coming up on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> could be used as morale booster for teachers to feel appreciated and school act as one big community, and they welcome would any ideas to celebrate in a big way in the process.
- Catherine Meyer mentioned students, teachers and parents need to connect from grass roots level, and the goal is to include the whole school. She also mentioned that the gratitude should be expressed more frequently, at various events at school. She mentioned that we should utilize ROM, with some international flavor with specific words from different languages, emphasizing on cross-cultural education.
- BK mentioned that they would have table at ROM for teacher appreciation, and they are open to ideas. AK mentioned that they could also leverage different events at school like Giant Gym night, Lab Arts and school games, and they are open to ideas, bring in room parents to help further.
- There was small discussion on which teachers are retiring at the end of the year, and the retirement parties being organized by the parents and PA board.
- There was long discussion on the format of gratitude, whether it is appropriate to write names of the teachers, and if we could pull high school students to help with the project.

### 8.05 p.m

**3) Rites of May Planning Update:** Rites of May committee has been formed, and currently it is meeting once a week. They would have International Booth, inflatables and other fun stuff like every year and are looking in to old year books for more ideas on how to make the ROM a fun event. They are planning to purchase tail gate tents, and set up a stage which would eb used for other events. An alternate plan is in place of weather issues too. LP mentioned they need additional volunteers for smooth organization of the event, and interested parents should email ROM chairs for more information.

### 8.10 p.m

**4) Challenge Success Update :** Challenge Success offers high-quality professional development workshops tailored specifically for elementary, middle, and high schools. Our interactive workshops are designed for educators who are interested in learning practical tools for improving student well-being and engagement with learning. Challenge Success provides schools and families with the information and strategies they need to create a more balanced and academically fulfilling life for their kids. Challenge success is a new program used by Stanford University, and other school in Chicago have used this program had a good results with it. We are planning on a two year commitment with them. AG mentioned Challenge success was tried out at school and died out eventually. MI remarked that for this program to be a success, faculty, students and parents need to work together, and there should be a focus group with a moderator to bring all of them together, and also too many wellness meetings would fatigue the students.

### 8.20 p.m

**5) College Scandal:** A parent had approached PA and requested that there be a panel discussion for parents, on college admission process explaining different components of the process. For example, extra time on test, learning challenges, kids with accommodations, all these need to be explained in detail, since most parents are afraid to ask questions, and it causes a lot of anxiety in general. College Counselors should be invited to the panel, and senior class parents need to be invited to guide other parents through the process. RP mentioned that as a school we should have a shared set of values, redefine moral boundaries and expectations from school and should have a collective vision as UCLS community to make programs like Challenge Success work. There was a small discussion on CASEL frame work, and what Challenge Success is intended to do, and what we do could to make them work together.

**8.40 p.m PA Board elections:** MI talked briefly about PA Board election process and the nominations

### 5) Upcoming events and important dates to Remember, Conclusions

- 📅 **Upcoming Events : Next Board Meeting is on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 -**

6:00 - 7 pm, John Rogers Board Room

### 8. 43 p.m Wrap Up and Disperse