

**MINUTES OF THE SSFS PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING**  
**April 17, 2007**  
**Athletic Center**

**SUMMARY OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- **It was the sense of the Meeting to initiate the use of a master list for the Grocery Bonus Bucks program.**
- **It was the sense of the Meeting to approve the October 2006, November 2006, and January 2007 PA minutes.**

Kathleen McKay, Clerk, called the meeting to order at 8:25 AM. She offered the following query:

*Every stage of our lives offers fresh opportunities. Try to discern the right time to undertake or relinquish responsibilities without undue pride or guilt. Attend to what love requires of you.*  
*By George Fox*

*Let us hold in the light the families touched by the tragic events in Virginia yesterday.*

This was followed by a moment of silence.

**Welcome and Introductions, Kathleen McKay**

Kathleen welcomed everyone to the meeting. She then introduced Jan Smith and Brooke Farquhar who would make the Landscaping Master Plan presentation to the group.

**Landscaping Master Plan Presentation**

Jan provided an overview for the development of the Landscaping Master Plan by the Landscape Planning Committee composed of faculty, staff, and community members. Sandy Spring Friends School is located on historic land that was settled by Quakers over 250 years ago. As a Quaker institution, we are keenly aware of the moral imperative to care for our environment in our 10 Signature Themes. The 140 school acres include natural Eastern woodlands, a pond, wetlands, a stream and wide open space. It is the goal of the plan to preserve this special place and make it an environment where students can breathe clean air, play on chemical free grounds, be safe from vehicular traffic, and learn to live the Quaker value of stewardship.

Brooke showed drawings of the major elements of the outdoor space which include *woodland restoration* (especially to replace the number of trees removed during construction), *circulation routes* (drop off areas and pedestrian walks), *outdoor community gathering areas* (amphitheater, playgrounds, playing fields, reflective sites, and open spaces), *site furnishings* (seating, lighting, signage, trash receptacles), *hardscape* (walls, ground surfacing), *plantings* (trees, shrubs, groundcover, grasses, annual and perennial flowers) and *parking lots*.

The plan has already been presented to students and faculty for their feedback and suggestions. The PA is now being asked to make suggestions. The Board will hear the presentation in May.

Several suggestions or concerns that were brought up:

- Additional lightning is needed for safety issues.
- Front and back entrances to buildings need to be wheel-chair accessible.
- Paths on campus should adhere to ADA specs so that they are wheel-chair friendly.
- Concern for upper school students walking on the road from the back parking lot was voiced. Would a walkway help?

- Concern for the Lower School parking situation and the safety of the children.

Kathleen thanked Jan and Brooke for the excellent presentation and for reaching out to the parents for their input.

### **Grocery Bonus Bucks**

Christy Stebbins reported that she was looking for ways to “beef up” the Bonus Bucks program at SSFS. She proposed the use of a master list where once a family had signed up for the list, their name would remain on the list until notified differently. Since Giant and Safeway require that families sign up each year, she feels that we are losing families who are too busy and do not renew. **It was the sense of the meeting to initiate this method of operation.**

### **Auction Update**

Jodi Leeser reported for the Auction Committee that the Silent Auction on Saturday, April 14 was a wonderful community event. The upcoming Auction is on Friday evening, April 20 at the new venue - Ten Oaks Ballroom in Clarksville with 50 items to be auctioned. All were urged to check their auction catalogs.

### **Nominating Committee**

Susan Taylor presented in behalf of the Nominating Committee the following slate for the 2007-2008 PA Officers:

Clerk - Nancy Adise  
Assistant Clerk - Kathy Bittinger  
Mentoring Clerk - Kathleen McKay  
Co Secretary - Laurel Chiat  
Treasurer - Karen Harris

#### **Division Representatives**

Upper School Ellen Hartge ( remaining)  
Cindy Raposo (remaining)  
Kadah Stackhouse  
Middle School Michelle Yates (remaining)  
Susan Gordon  
Laurita Portee  
Lower School Cindy French (remaining)  
Sarita Winter

The slate will be considered at the upcoming May PA meeting.

### **Recruitment Committee**

Nancy Adise reported that anyone interested in serving as clerk or coordinator to PA events for the 2007-2008 school year should contact her.

### **List Serve Update**

In the continued effort to enhance communication within the PA, Kathleen urged all interested parents to sign up on the PA list serve to receive emails of PA announcements and upcoming

events. This is a separated email from the divisional list serves or the SSFS list serve. In the past, this PA list was used only in the case of emergency notification.

### **Announcements**

- Bonnie O'Donoghue announced that the Spring Book Sale held on April 2-6 was very successful.
- Brooke Carroll will give the presentation "Recent Advances in Adolescent Brain Research- A Discussion with Parents" on May at 7:15 PM in PAC, Studio B.
- *Inconvenient Truth* slide show will be shown on Wednesday, April 18 at 6:45pm in PAC.
- Post Prom Party is scheduled for Saturday, May 5 with the theme of "Comic Relief".

### **Approval of Minutes**

**It was the sense of the Meeting to approve the October 2006, November 2006, and January 2007 minutes.** March 2007 minutes were distributed.

The meeting was adjourned by Kathleen.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Taylor for  
Eileen Hollander, co-secretary