

**MINUTES OF THE SSFS PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING**  
**March 13, 2007**  
**Athletic Center**

**SUMMARY OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- **It was the sense of the Meeting to approve the recommendations of the Finance Committee.**
- **It was the sense of the meeting that the Finance Committee Report be revisited again in one year.**

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

*Seeking Unity*  
*If Unity suggests to us not agreement or sameness of viewpoint,*  
*but a oneness of purpose,*  
*then are we willing to move beyond ourselves*  
*to know our differences, and to discover a means of communicating in order to*  
*reach together to find where our unity lives?*

This was followed by a moment of silence.

**Welcome and Introductions, Kathleen McKay**

Kathleen welcomed Ken Smith who introduced Carl Gedge, new Assistant Head for External Relations. Carl's wife Joanie will be doing volunteer work in the library.

**Finance Committee Report, Kathleen Morrish, Clerk**

- Committee gets together every 3 years to review the use of the PA gift that the school receives each year.
- Report on the Finance Committee work was handed out to parents for review. (Report had also been posted on-line and comments welcomed.)
- Summary of Report
  - **Funds Allocation:**
    - Points to consider
      - Diversity should permeate everything SSFS does
      - There is a greater need now than in previous years for direct financial aid gifts.
      - There is a need to improve communication and outreach.
      - The money that the PA provides to SSFS will have the biggest impact if it is allocated to fewer rather than more priorities.
      - The school will benefit if the money donated allows the school some flexibility in how it is used.
      - The PA needs to communicate effectively to the school the bounds within which the money is intended to be spent.
    - Recommendations:
      - Faculty recruitment, retention & professional development: 40%
      - Financial aid (direct gifts): 25%
      - Financial aid (endowment): 20%
      - Communication & outreach: 15%

- The Finance Committee of the PA should meet again next fall to reconsider the allocation of PA funds to SSFS based on the current effort to better map the SSFS Long Range Strategic Plan.
- **Earmarked Fundraisers:**
  - Points to consider
    - There is great value in parents wanting to sponsor special fundraising events.
    - One of the bases of Quaker decision-making process is that all interested parties should agree on course of action.
  - Recommendations
    - School should direct parents interested in leading a fundraiser to the PA.
    - The PA should have a well-communicated, flexible and responsive process by which recommendations for fundraising efforts are considered.

Other comments about the report:

- Concerns expressed by parents and by the Diversity Committee about the omission of funds directed toward promoting Diversity in the SSFS community
  - Where would the money come from to send students/faculty to diversity conferences?
  - Need for money to be allocated toward diversity faculty recruitment and financial aid.
- Kathleen Morrish reassured parents that diversity is a part of the allocation of funds even if not listed separately.
- Issue of communication was raised (15% of funds allocated to Communication & Outreach)
  - Need for better communication with parents about upcoming meetings.
  - Possibility of providing teleconferencing of meetings for parents who cannot attend.

**Program: Can We Talk Too?**

**Discussion on how to effectively communicate with our children: Lead by SSFS Counselors. This was a follow-up to the November 2006 Parent Education Meeting with the Counselors. Counselors present:**

- **Jen Cort**, Director of Student Support Services (current counselor for the PK class & temporarily filling in as US counselor)
  - **Nancy Preuss**, Upper School Dorm Counselor
  - **Lauren Keller**, Middle School Counselor
  - **Tim Croft**, Lower School counselor
- (**Ilene Lees**, Upper School Counselor was not present due to maternity leave.)

The purpose of having the counselors at the meeting was to answer questions and to help lead a discussion to help parents with children of all ages.

The counselors presented the same list of topics for parent discussion groups as had been introduced at the November meeting:

- |                 |                           |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Adoption        | Allowance                 |
| Sex             | Control                   |
| Stranger-danger | Eating issues             |
| Discipline      | Birthday Parties, parties |

Substance use  
Divorce  
Bullying  
Internet safety

Family values  
Protection vs. fear  
Exclusion

Parents then formed break-out discussion groups according to school division. At this meeting, parents did not gather together at the end to share what had been discussed in the smaller groups.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Eileen Hollander, Co-secretary**