

**MINUTES OF THE SSFS PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING**  
**May 15, 2007**  
**Athletic Center**

**SUMMARY OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- **It was the sense of the Meeting to approve the slate of officers for the 2007-2008 school year.**
- **It was the sense of the Meeting to approve the merging of the World Friends Committee with the Diversity Committee.**
- **It was the sense of the Meeting to approve the proposed mission statement of the Diversity Committee.**

Kathleen McKay, Clerk, called the meeting to order at 8:21 AM. She offered the following query:

*In celebrating our successes and milestones together, how do we clearly acknowledge the fundamental worth of every person? Do we use and perfect our gifts for the benefit of others? Do we regard our time, talents, and wealth as gifts to be shared?*

This was followed by a moment of silence.

**COMMITTEE AND EVENT REPORTS**

**Post prom party (Eleanor Howe reported for Ellen Hartge)**

- Held at Longwood Recreation Center and was very successful with 75-80 kids in attendance
- Included comedians, massage therapists, caricature artist, palm readers, a coffee house and more
- \$3,000 was allocated by the PA and another \$3,000 plus prizes were donated by parents

**Faculty Staff Appreciation Luncheon (Barb Gaffigan)**

- To be held Tues. June 12 at noon in Westview
- Trying to give it a more festive look this year
- Need donations of home cooked food (to feed 12-20 people) or monetary donations are welcome

**Parent Education ( Nancy Adise reported for Marla Zipin)**

- Deborah Roffman, nationally known parent sex educator
  - Program for parents held on the evening of April 10 entitled “Talking Sense about Sex: Raising Sexually Healthy Children” with about 40 parents attending
  - Met with US students also
  - Will meet with faculty next year
- **Other programs**
  - Brooke Carroll gave morning and evening presentations on the Adolescent Brain
  - School counselors came twice to help facilitate discussions among parents about how to communicate effectively with our children
  - Alfie Kohn also came and gave a talk to parents on “Unconditional Parenting, Moving from Rewards and Punishment to Love and Reason.”
- **Suggestions for next year**
  - Publicize events better
  - Organize a collection of tapes of parent ed presentations in the library

**Auction (Anna Rhee)**

- New idea implemented this year – two events were held
- A family-oriented silent auction and student talent show was held on Sat. April 14; great turnout!
- Adults-only event was held on Friday evening April 20 at the Ten Oaks Ballroom; included live auction, a smaller silent auction, and Fund-an-Item.
- 3 new parents were on the auction committee and plan to stay on the committee next year
- Income balance was \$89,000

### **TREASURER'S REPORT (KAREN HARRIS)**

#### **2006-2007 Financial Report Highlights**

- Winterfest brought in \$10,591, well over the projected inflow of \$6,000.
- Parent Ed: Parent-to-Parent (Community of Concern) went over budget last year due to increased number of books that were ordered, so was increased for next year
- After Prom expenses were not the final figures as of the date of the meeting
- Celebration of Science expenses were slightly under what was projected
- Computer printing and supplies went over budget
- Skating party did not take place this year so money budget was not used
- Net transfer to school was about \$72,000

#### **Preliminary Budget, 2007-2008**

- World Friends and Diversity will be combined as one line item
- Allocated budget for Parent Ed: Community of Concern increased
- Computer, Printing & Supplies budget increased
- Projected Net Transfer to School increased to \$49,175

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT (SUSAN TAYLOR)**

#### **Election of Officers, 2007-2008**

- Slate was posted on 4/10/07 (according to the by-laws)
- Proposed slate of officers:
  - Mentoring Clerk: Kathleen McKay
  - Clerk: Nancy Adise
  - Assistant Clerk: Kathy Bittinger
  - Treasurer: Karen Harris
  - Secretary: Laurel Chiat, co-secretary
  - Lower School Division Reps: Cindy French (remaining)  
Sarita Winter
  - Middle School Division Reps: Michelle Yates (remaining)  
Susan Gordon  
Laurita Portee
  - Upper School Division Reps: Ellen Hartge (remaining)  
Cindy Raposo (remaining)  
Kadah Stackhouse

### **RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (NANCY ADISE)**

- Committee consists of Nancy and Barb Gaffigan
- Still working to fill Committee slots
- Volunteer brochures distributed to new families to make parents aware of volunteer opportunities

## **JOINT MEETING OF PREVENTION STEERING COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY OF CONCERN PLAN GROUP (ELEANOR HOWE)**

- Comprised of Heads of Upper and Middle Schools, counselors, parents and clerk of Parent Ed committee
- Similar to a Think Tank to keep track of efforts to promote healthy decision making and dialogue between all aspects of the school: parents, students, counselors, etc.
- Seeks to assure synergy between school and parents
- Thinking of holding a symposium at SSFS this fall for grades 8 to 12
  - To get parents, students, teachers, grounds workers to come together once a year as a community
  - Has potential to become a signature event of the school
  - Increased opportunity for dialogue
  - Input so far from students is to have less speakers but more opportunities for dialogue with parents about what it was like for them as teens
  - Kids could submit questions anonymously
  - Goal: to begin a dialogue to try to develop a connection with parents who don't normally attend Parent Ed events
  - Eleanor will be stepping down as clerk; Marla Zipin has agreed to serve as co-clerk; Ilene Lees also a part of this committee; More parent support needed

## **COMMITTEE AND EVENT REPORTS (continued)**

### **Grocery store receipts/ink recycling (Christy Stebbins)**

- \$3,046 earned from Giant registered cards
- \$747 earned from Safeway registered cards
- These are not end of year totals; \$4,300 expected
- Parents can register for up to 3 different schools for each card
- Will try to get parents to sign-up to give school permission to reregister them each year so they don't have to remember to do this each school year
- Ink recycling earned \$313; Two businesses have signed on so far

### **Spring Book Fair (Bonnie O'Donoghue, Nanette Radue & Kim Sargent)**

- Raised \$1,860
- Collected many boxes of used books
- 19 parent volunteers helped

### **Celebration of Science (Kathleen McKay for Tassie Hanna)**

- Two times as many students participated this year as compared to last year
- Very exciting event with a total of 74 projects, with over 120 students, plus a total of 32 6<sup>th</sup> grade students participation in a new category, the Design Challenge.
- Same budget and schedule requested for next year

### **Spring Plant Sale (Susan Taylor reported for Frankie Lydon)**

- All plants were sold
- No figures yet on amount earned

### **Learning Differences (Susan Taylor for LDC clerk)**

- Report to be read by Mentoring Clerk in the future
- Sponsored a hands-on Inspiration Software workshop

- Jen Cort was a great resource for this committee

**World Friends (Barbara Gaffigan)**

- Currently recruiting host families for new ISP students
- 8/19 – 8/26 will be orientation for new ISP students; then they go to host families
- Most host families continued their relationship with students throughout the year
- Events this past year:
  - ISP dinner
  - ISP students helped with clean-up after spaghetti dinner
  - ISP students participated in the Help-the-Homeless Walk
- It was approved that World Friends Committee would merge with Diversity Committee next year since many diversity issues relevant to the international students might be better supported with the PA Diversity Committee.

**Diversity (Sarita Winter & Sydney Jacobs)**

- The committee spent time early in year educating themselves about what already existed on campus regarding diversity committees/efforts
- The committee then developed an action plan
- Looking at speakers for next year
- Will work with Karl Gedge and others from school to better coordinate efforts
- Committee concluded that a lot is happening within the school regarding diversity but communication could be better

**Community Service (Barbara Gaffigan)**

- Self-directed this year as no Clerk was identified; Many parents helped out
- All school spaghetti dinner held with proceeds directed to UNICEF
- 140 SSFS students participated in the Fannie Mae Walk for the Homeless
- Sponsored the Alternative Gift Market at Winterfest
- Caring with Casseroles program resulted in the delivery of 50 casseroles to Sheppard's Table in Silver Spring
- Supported the Lower School Snow Pant and Boot Exchange with excess clothing delivered to Linkages to Learning
- School supplies collected at various times throughout the year for donations to Linkages to Learning

**FRIENDSNET VS SSFS LISTSERVE (KATHLEEN MCKAY)**

- There are many different list serves that parents can sign up (sign-up by going on the SSFS website)
- Now can sign up for PA list serve and get a weekly bulletin
- FriendsNet
  - Will continue to promote this although it hasn't caught on quite yet
  - This is a 2-way communication whereas list serve is one-way

Kathleen closed the meeting with a moment of reflection at 10:07 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eileen Hollander, co-secretary