



Parents' Auxiliary Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2021

Neal Lea, President, called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Neal Lea gave the opening prayer.

Kathryn Irby Secretary, presented the April 9, 2021, meeting minutes for approval. Jamie Jones moved to approve the minutes. Stephanie Wade seconded the motion.

Tricia Morgan, Director of College Counseling, reported that most of the seniors have decided where they will be attending next year. There were major changes in the world of admissions due to the pandemic. One is the new test optional policy for three-quarters of colleges, under which applicants can (but are not required to) submit SAT or ACT scores. Due to the pandemic, many students had more time to spend on essays and recommendations. Most colleges have not held in-person visits, so colleges are doing online tours, virtual visits, and coffee chats. The upside is that colleges were more accessible to students who didn't have the time or means to travel long distances to visit. The downside is that it can be harder to make the college decision without seeing a school in person. Colleges reported a 20% increase in applications this year. Details regarding Episcopal's Class of 2021 was discussed, including average GPA, test scores, number of applications submitted, the average admission rate, and college acceptances.

Steve Hickman, Interim Head of School, noted that Patti Coleman and Jane Ann Fortenberry are retiring at the end of the school year and thanked them for their years of wonderful service to the school. In planning for the 2021-2022 school year, the goal is to open school as normally as possible. Vaccines for students age 12-15 should be available soon, which may affect the plan for the next school year. Kathy Wild was thanked for all of her help with the banquets this spring. Neal Lea was thanked for her service as Parents' Auxiliary president. Troy Urquhart was also thanked for his service as the Head of Upper School.

Mary-Margaret Marks, President-Elect, presented the treasurer's report. As of April 30, the Parents' Auxiliary had approximately \$177,000 in cash reserves. The Parents' Auxiliary is anticipating having approximately \$190,000 in cash reserves by the end of May, and this amount is being used as the basis for next year's budget.

Susan Harbour, Auction, reported that the Auction raised more than \$253,000. All of the volunteers, sponsors, committee members, and bidders were thanked for their support. A big thank you was given to Hannah Bryan and Michelle Campbell for all of their help.

Susan Harbour, Middle School Athletic Banquet, reported that the MS Athletic Banquet was held on the football field this year. Families brought lawn chairs to socially distance. It was an enjoyable, laidback event.

Kathy Wild, Upper School Athletic Banquet, reported that the US Athletic Banquet was an enjoyable, socially distanced event with a record number of attendees.

Jessica Rogers, Field Day, reported that the event will be on the football field and will be split over two days (3rd-5th on May 27, preK-2nd on May 28). The classes will rotate through stations. Kona Ice will be there, along with a DJ. The goal is to make it very fun while still keeping it safe. Parents are not able to attend, aside from four parent volunteers per class. Lots of photographs will be taken so that parents will be able to see the fun.

Cara Porcelli, Teacher Appreciation, reported that Teacher Appreciation Week has been a big success thanks to the committee's creativity and great ideas.

Neal Lea noted that receipts and reimbursement forms need to be turned in to Angela Deloney in the business office as soon as possible.

Neal Lea thanked the Parents' Auxiliary for the opportunity to serve as president and for the committees' help in making this year a success.

Mary-Margaret Marks, Incoming President, thanked Neal Lea for setting the standard of willing and eager "service from afar" during this unique year. The incoming Parents' Auxiliary slate was announced for the 2021-2022 year, including Mary Lewis Dassinger as the president-elect.

Mary-Margaret Marks thanked everyone for attending virtually. Hannah Bryan was thanked for all of her support. More information will come out late summer regarding Parents' Auxiliary for the next school year. With no further questions or announcements, the meeting was adjourned 9:27 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathryn Irby