



Parents' Auxiliary Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2020

Neal Lea, President, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Sara Beth Hughes gave the opening prayer.

Neal Lea presented the September 2020 meeting minutes for approval. Charlotte Grumbles moved to approve the minutes. Mary-Margaret Marks seconded the motion.

David Perkinson, Head of School, advised that, in light of the two positive Covid cases in the school community, administration met with the school medical team to review protocols and to determine whether any updates are necessary. More details coming in an email early next week. Everyone is excited to have the upper schoolers back on campus next Monday. The upper schoolers have been upbeat about the changes involving the portable classrooms. Given the increased amount of work for teachers this year, any extra encouragement that parents can give to teachers is much appreciated. **Troy Urquhart, Head of Upper School**, and **Chuck McCormick, Head of Middle School**, echoed the challenges facing the teachers this year and how well the teachers are meeting these challenges.

Katie Robinson, Director of Academic Technology, noted that technology is only as good as the people using it and that the teachers are finding innovative ways to use existing and new technology to meet the challenges this year. She has joined several classes in all divisions to learn about the in-person and virtual learning experiences, and she has been very impressed. Thankfully, Episcopal's existing learning management system and previous move from Office 365 to G Suite had the benefit of easing the transition to virtual learning. Additionally, the Chromebooks are powerful but simple devices. Providing a 1:1 ratio of Chromebooks down to 1st grade has made transitions from school to home much easier. The OWL devices allows teachers to teach from home and students to really participate from home. These devices have terrific video and audio capabilities, which provide a window into the classroom. The teachers are able to move the OWL around the classroom as needed. Parents are encouraged to tune in to the chapel livestream each day. **Dr. Perkinson** thanked Ms. Robinson and Ms. Jo Stoltz for all of their efforts.

Mary-Margaret Marks, President-Elect, presented the treasurer's report. There were some expenses related to teacher appreciation and some income related to used uniforms. A fund was

created for upper school faculty expenses related to the fire and not covered by insurance. Currently, that fund has \$12,000.

Neal Lea presented on behalf of the **Used Uniforms Committee**. Now that the weather is turning cooler, there are a lot of fleeces and sweatshirts in the lower school and middle/upper school. Parents can contact Tonya Thomas in the lower school or Jan Britt for the middle/upper school if any items is needed. Tonya and Jan can shop for parents. Please reach out to Cara Chapman (lower school) or Kim Crank (middle/upper school) with any questions.

Neal Lea reported on behalf of the **LS and MS/US Teacher Appreciation Committees**. For the upper school teachers, the committee recently provided take-home dinners. During fall break, the committees are arranging for lunches to be provided to faculty in all divisions. The focus is on providing extra love for our teachers and staff this year.

Susan Langley, Concessions, reported that parents have been wonderful about signing up for gate shifts. More sign-ups coming soon, and a lot of help will be needed in the coming weeks with the state volleyball tournament and other events. Game cancellations and reschedulings have proven to be a challenge for the committee.

Dr. Perkinson encouraged parents to focus on school spirit during the month of October, in light of some of the changes necessitated by Covid (no homecoming dance or tailgate, rescheduling of Wildcat Roundup, etc.). There will be spirit days each Friday during the month. More information to come.

Charlotte Grumbles reported that personalized mums corsages will be available for purchase through a link in the Wildcat Weekly. Each corsage is \$20. The corsages are fastened with a large safety pin. Parents are encouraged to purchase mums to show their school spirit at the homecoming football game on October 23.

Mary-Margaret Marks reported on behalf of the **Trunk or Treat Committee**. This year, the event will switch to a drive-through in the lower school carpool line before the playoff football game on the last Friday in October. Volunteers are needed to pass out candy and to decorate. The committee is working through safety logistics, as well. Middle schoolers and upper schoolers can contact Toby Murry or Gretchen Jennings to volunteer and to earn some service hours.

Neal Lea adjourned the meeting at 9:17 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathryn Irby