



**EPISCOPAL
COLLEGIATE SCHOOL**
Parents' Auxiliary Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2020

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

Neal Lea, President, gave the opening prayer.

Angie Johnson, presented the October 2020 minutes for approval. Mary-Margaret Marks moved to approve the minutes. Charlotte Grumbles seconded the motion.

Stephen Vano, Choral Director & Fine Arts Chair, reported that the Fine Arts Department implemented changes to the curriculum in order to adhere to current Covid-19 guidelines. Though no performances, concerts, or plays are scheduled on or off-campus at this time, students are participating and expressing themselves in the creative arts. New safety measures include partitions in the classrooms, materials/instruments assigned to only one individual, and the chorus' transitioning to a larger area to ensure appropriate social distancing. In an effort to find ways to connect with the community and provide the opportunity for students to collaborate with one another, the traditional *Lessons and Carols* will be recorded and then shared virtually during chapel. This year, Middle School implemented a 6th-grade art wheel, giving all 6th graders an introductory overview of the Fine Arts program. Students spend one quarter in chorus, instrumental arts, creative drama, and visual arts; therefore, allowing students the opportunity to meet the Fine Arts faculty and experience all offerings of the Fine Arts Department. Mr. Vano thanked leadership, the Board of Directors, and the faculty for making Fine Arts a priority and providing a well-rounded, balanced education for students. **David Perkinson, Head of School**, praised the Fine Arts Department for reimagining their curriculums and delivery methods during the pandemic. To continue with tradition and to create a sense of normalcy, the senior Christmas tree will be located outside and kindergarten and Senior buddies are working on ways to continue the annual gift exchange. **Neal Lea, President**, thanked Mr. Vano and praised the Fine Art department for implementing the 6th-grade art wheel. **Stephen Vano, Choral Director & Fine Arts Chair**, announced that the Theatre and Visual Performance Department will present a virtual version of *A Christmas Carol*, tentatively scheduled for December 11th and 12th.

David Perkinson, Head of School, thanked Toby Murry and Gretchen Jennings for their efforts in this year's Lower School Halloween Trunk-or-Treat. The Middle and Upper Schools continued the tradition of dressing in costumes and participating in the Advisory Pumpkin Decorating Contest. Thankfully, students have adapted to this year's safety adjustments, and it has felt more "like school" with the co-curricular teachers' recent transition back to their classrooms in the Lower School. Given increasing numbers in Covid-19 cases in Arkansas, Dr. Perkinson reported being encouraged that only seven students/faculty were in quarantine. Upper School renovations are scheduled to be completed in January, and the roof should be completed this weekend. The track and field project has experienced delays due to rain earlier this fall, but steady progress is being made towards its completion. The interior field turf should arrive soon, and the track surface will be paved and need to be cured for 30 days before completing the track surface. In closing, Dr. Perkinson congratulated the boys' cross country team for securing the state championship title on November 5th, 2020, and was encouraged by the growth, strength, and competitiveness of the girls' team this year.

Neal Lea, President, encouraged everyone to attend the Varsity Football State Championship game on November 6th. Both the Junior Varsity and Varsity teams went undefeated this year in the 8-man division. Neal Lea thanked Dr. Perkinson for his four years of leadership, and an honorary gift to the track and field was given in his honor. As a token of appreciation, a James Hayes blown glass bowl was gifted to Dr. Perkinson in hopes that he will have fond memories of his time in Arkansas.

Steve Hickman, Interim Head of School, noted a warm and inviting welcome back to Episcopal Collegiate School. He encouraged parents to reach out via Zoom or phone since Covid-19 guidelines inhibit face to face meetings at the present time. He echoed the positive sentiments spoken of David Perkinson and his contributions to the school, praising Dr. Perkinson for the Herculean efforts demonstrated by faculty and staff under his leadership.

Mary-Margaret Marks, President-Elect, presented the treasurer's report. The income included \$362 in used uniform sales and \$129.01 in homecoming mum sales. Meanwhile, expenses for Teacher Appreciation gifts were a little less than \$900. Volunteers were encouraged to submit receipts for reimbursement, and plans were made to give a full financial update of where the Parents' Auxiliary stands for the 2nd semester in January.

Toby Murray, Trunk or Treat Co-Chair, reported a festive event despite the pandemic. The committee created an exciting afternoon with music, a Halloween themed balloon arch for afternoon carpool, photo-ops with the Wildcat mascot, and 400 bags of candy sent home to the students.

Cara Procelli, Teacher Appreciation Chair, reported that the Lower School, Middle School, and Upper School Teacher Appreciation Committees joined forces this year to provide the Upper School faculty with dinner and the entire school with cookies after lighting struck the school. Pumpkin bread will be provided before Thanksgiving, and alternate ideas are circulating for the traditional Christmas luncheons.

Susan Langley, Concessions/Gate, thanked volunteers who served during the volleyball season and the volleyball tournament. Visitors were complimentary of the friendliness of the volunteers and the safety measures taken during the pandemic. Basketball begins next week; look in the Wildcat Weekly for the sign-up link to work admissions.

Charlotte Grumbles, Homecoming Mums, thanked those who purchased mums for homecoming. Twenty-two mums were sold. The goal is to provide school spirit and a small profit was made.

Laura Schnackenberg, Lower School Christmas Program Chair, reported that the Lower School Christmas program is canceled due to the pandemic. Karen Clark is brainstorming ideas for a possible performance during Grandparents' Day.

Neal Lea, President, updated participants on the Upper School Faculty Recovery Fund, which received about \$12,000 in donations. This fund was created for Upper School faculty's fire-related expenses that are not covered by insurance. Recently, the Upper School faculty received dinner, and Starbucks coffee and treats were provided when the Upper School returned to campus. The Parents' Auxiliary plans to continue showing appreciation to the faculty and staff who are thinking outside of the box and working extremely long and hard hours during this pandemic.

David Perkinson, Head of School, gave warm regards and thanked the Parents' Auxiliary for the James Hayes Bowl and honorary gift to the Track and Field.

Neal Lea, President, reported no scheduled meeting for December, and the next Parent's Auxiliary meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2021. With no further questions or announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angie Johnson