



Parents' Auxiliary Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2022

Mary Margaret Marks, President, called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

Mary Margaret Marks asked for a motion to begin the meeting. Christy Cooley made such a motion, and Lisa Jones seconded the motion.

Ginger McCorkle, Senior Parent Co-Representative, gave the opening prayer.

Leslie Bright, Wildcat Roundup Co-Chair, announced that the event will be held on April 6, 2022, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. on the football field and in Wildcat Alley. There is a meeting scheduled for March 17 at 8:00 a.m. for anyone interested in helping or volunteering.

Dr. Jamie Griffin, Head of School, provided an update on the school year. He said that the school year is going well despite the challenges presented by the pandemic. He noted that the school is “getting back to better” (as opposed to getting back to normal). He was happy to see lower school parents on campus for the Mardi Gras parade and Ash Wednesday service and is excited for parents to be back on campus this spring. In an admissions update, Dr. Griffin said that applications and inquiries are up 250% and that 739 students are already re-enrolled for next year. The school has added learning services specialists this year and anticipates adding faculty members next year. The rising ninth grade class is predicted to be the largest class in the upper school. Dr. Griffin thanked parents for participating in the strategic planning survey and Dr. Gay’s diversity and inclusion survey. The consultant assisting the school with strategic planning advised that the school is doing very well compared to other independent school nationally. Dr. Griffin congratulated Hannah Bryan in her new position as Director of Advancement and noted that the annual fund is doing very well. Parents should expect to receive information soon about spring events.

Anastasia Fink, US Art Teacher, answered questions about the fine arts department and introduced students **Marissa Barone, Lance Viscioni-Wilson, Elisa DeLorme, and Evelyn Calhoun**, each of whom discussed their art projects, presentations, and/or portfolios. The Parents’ Auxiliary was delighted to see the works created by these talented artists and to hear more Ms. Fink’s art classes.

Kathy Wild, Wild Game Dinner Chair, explained that the event raises funds for the arts and the athletics. Still plenty of time to donate, volunteer, participate on a chef team. Encouraged everyone to spread the word. Any questions about the event can be directed to Kathy. This is a casual event. First all-campus event since 2019. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Mary Margaret Marks presented the November 2021 meeting minutes for approval. Neal Lea moved to approve the minutes. Jamie Jones seconded the motion.

Mary Lewis Dassinger, President-Elect, presented the treasurer's report, including income in excess of \$22,000 so far. A lot of expenses will be coming in soon with all of the spring events, and parents are encouraged to turn in receipts for reimbursement as quickly as possible. The budgeting process for next year will begin soon, and actual expense information for each event is especially helpful.

Jamie Jones, Concessions Co-Chair, thanked all of the volunteers who helped with the fall and winter sports. The expectation is that if a student participates in a sport, the parents will do a shift to help make the athletic events successful. Parents are also encouraged to sign up for a shift outside of their child's sport. Instructions for each shift are sent to parents in advance.

Elizabeth Daniel, LS Traditions Committee, reported on the Shrove Tuesday festivities and noted that the lower school enjoyed the celebration.

Mary Margaret Marks thanked the **Teacher Appreciation Committees** for their efforts in celebrating our teachers and staff this year.

Mary Margaret Marks thanked everyone for attending and asked for a motion to adjourn. Jamie Jones made such a motion, and Mary Lewis Dassinger seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathryn Irby