Parents’ Auxiliary Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2022

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

Angie Johnson, gave the opening prayer.

Dr. Jamie Griffin, Head of School, provided an update on the school year. He noted the excitement surrounding spring athletics. He thanked Mary Margaret Marks and Mary Lewis Dassinger and all of the Parents’ Auxiliary members for their hard work this year. He also thanked the Teacher Appreciation Committees for their work celebrating the teachers last week. Parents of upper schoolers are encouraged to support their students through exam week. The school has reevaluated the summer work, and summer assignments and resources will be available online soon. Episcopal currently has a 94% retention rate, and Dr. Griffin was excited to report that over 60 eighth graders will be staying for ninth grade. The school expects to have over 800 students for the first time in fall 2022. Dr. Griffin has added positions, including an US learning support position and MS counselor. He highlighted the tremendous accomplishments and college plans for the seventeen seniors who have attended Episcopal since kindergarten. Dr. Griffin shared some data regarding the recent parent survey and invited parents to come to him with any questions. More information will be forthcoming in the fall regarding the steering committee. Dr. Griffin encouraged parent participation in the Annual Fund.

Trisha Morgan, College Counselor, reported that most colleges have dropped the SAT/ACT requirement or made it optional. Early deadlines have gained importance, and college classes have filled early. However, there are less kids going to college nationally, such that smaller, less selective colleges are not able to fill their classes. For the Episcopal class of 2022, the graduating class is headed to predominantly out-of-state schools (29 different states, plus 1 college in Scotland) and received over $7.1 million in merit-based scholarships.

Leigh Keener, LS Discovery Lab Teacher, did an fun lesson for the parents about paper to give them an idea of how she incorporates many different themes into a classroom lesson (energy, resources, recycling, etc.).
Mary Margaret Marks, President, presented an update on behalf of the 2022-2023 Auction chairs, Stacy Grobmyer and Sarah Priebe. The Auction will be held on February 11, 2023. Parents are encouraged to mark their calendars and to spread the word. The Auction forward funds the Parents’ Auxiliary for two years, so all students and faculty members are affected by the success of the Auction.

Kathryn Irby, Secretary, presented the March 2022 meeting minutes for approval. Jamie Jones moved to approve the minutes, and Angie Johnson seconded the motion.

Mary Lewis Dassinger, President-Elect, presented the treasurer’s report. Outstanding expenses need to be submitted as soon as possible so that end-of-the-year gifts can be determined. She thanked Mary Margaret Marks for her tireless service to the school as Parents’ Auxiliary president and presented her with thank you notes and flowers. She also previewed some 2022-2023 events, including Watermelon Supper and Wildcat Roundup in fall 2022. She encouraged parents to loop in new families when soliciting volunteers. Hannah Bryan was thanked for all of her hard work this year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathryn Irby