



**Parents' Auxiliary Meeting Minutes**  
**November 11, 2022**

**Mary Lewis Dassinger, President**, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**Mary Lewis Dassinger** asked for a motion to begin the meeting. Mary-Margaret Marks made the motion. Neal Lea seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

**Mary Lewis Dassinger** gave the opening prayer.

**Dr. Jamie Griffin, Head of School**, welcomed the Parents Auxiliary and provided an update on the school year. It has been an awesome fall. He took twenty-six 10th and 11th grade students to the DC area on college tours. The students were full of excitement, and it was contagious! The school also hosted an alumni regional event in DC at the same time, spanning from 2004-2016 graduates.

Enrollment for the entire school hit 809. The school has four National Merit Semifinalists, and AP score average was 87% (65% is the national average, 50% is the Arkansas average). The school has had author visits at every level throughout the fall. The school has had normal pre-COVID chapels and opening ceremonies. The middle and upper school musical, *Annie*, opened on November 10, 2022.

The parent programming has expanded. Meg Green, registered dietician, presented to parents and students regarding healthy lifestyles. The lowerschool hosted programming on reading programs from the parents perspective in the last weeks.

The Vine & Village community partnership is up and running. The upper school students have been helping with food distribution around the University Arkansas–Little Rock area, and by all accounts are finding it to be a rewarding community experience.

In addition, rowing has been up and going. Rowing has been a good experience for the students, and the school is looking forward to growing it in the next semesters. Rowing season is in the spring, for competition, but will be recognized this year as a fall sport.

The new student support center in the upper school is successful, which is located next to the US library,

Fall athletics had successful seasons. Cross country repeated state championship. Tennis repeated as state champions. The football team has transitioned back to 11-man football, and played in the state playoffs.

Spirit week was a lot of fun, and lots of excitement. Students and staff on all levels were actively engaged.

The strategic plan was launched with a parent meeting. Copies are available. Smaller parent coffees will occur next semester. The mission statement remains *“preparing students to live principled lives of leadership and service through the pursuit of academic and personal excellence in a challenging and supportive environment.”* It is important to understand what the school values. The school had not previously had, prior to the strategic plan, a vision statement. This is not uncommon, as very few schools have a vision statement. The strategic planning committee determined that it is important to understand why and how the school completes its mission. Accordingly, a vision and educational philosophy was developed. The vision statement tells the public why Episcopal Collegiate School does what it does, and that has been adopted as *“to inspire lifelong learning, citizenship, and excellence.”* Educational Philosophy is how the school accomplishes its mission, and the educational philosophy of Episcopal Collegiate School *“rests on two pillars: a press towards academic achievement and a culture of care and support.”* The strategic plan consultant had also worked with hundreds of schools and he was very impressed with the unique position of Episcopal Collegiate School. Importantly, the market research demonstrates that there are 46 separate market demographics in the school community. Dr. Griffin noted that the school will continue to nurture and cultivate diverse conversations so that all of the community demographics are engaged. He asked that the parents auxiliary community refer families to Episcopal Collegiate School and encourage families to contact the school admissions to visit the school. There are waiting lists for several grades, so the earlier the better.

Dr. Griffin praised Dr. Graham’s work in the upper school, noting in particular Dr. Graham’s commitment to engagement with the students and communication with them.

**Dr. Kellen Graham, Head of Upper School,** presented. It was one year ago today that he came to Episcopal Collegiate School to interview. He has studied multiple schools around the country. This school is positioned for every kid to find what is special to them. He noted that Episcopal Collegiate School is ready to launch into educational spaces it has not been before. He noted that there is a commitment to parent programming, and that his door is always open to any parent. When kids are known and loved, and the environment is energetic and fun, that is when learning really catapults everyone into a new space. Fun is integral to learning.

**Jamie Jones, Secretary,** presented the previous meeting minutes for approval. Neal Lea moved to approve the minutes. Mary-Margaret Marks seconded the motion. They were unanimously approved.

**Maggie Young, President-Elect/Treasurer,** presented the Treasurer's report, including an ending balance of \$125,342.99 Used Uniforms are doing really well. Everyone is doing a great job on budgeting and the Parents Auxiliary is well-situated for the year.

**Laura Schnackenberg for Athletic Gate and Concessions,** reminded parents that there are opportunities to serve by volunteering with athletics and that those opportunities can be found at the Sign-Up Genius link in the Wildcat Weekly. They need gate and concession volunteers for basketball, and will be hosting the Wildcat Classic during break. If you have a child in a sport, you need to have volunteered. Team parents are being identified now.

**Mary Scarborough presented for the Teacher Appreciation.** Monthly events take place, and have included: a welcome back lunch, spirit week in September with snacks, a staff lunch on conference day, Halloween treat, and Thanksgiving event providing pumpkin bread. Christmas will feature a lunch for the teachers. Please reach out to Amy Brantley if you can donate funds for the events. If you want to be involved, reach out to Mary or Liza Wright.

**Sarah Priebe and Stacy Grobmeyer, Auction Chairs,** announced that the Auction will be held on February 11, 2023 and the theme is ONE (one campus, one community, one of a kind). All parents are invited to join the Circle of Excellence as special donors who get tickets to the Auction and to the patron party on January 29, 2023. The Auction will not have a grade level donation and instead the art from an upper school student has been donated. There will be a wine auction. The patron party will be at the school with food done by the Root. Limited raffle tickets are available for the tuition raffle.

**Emily Kilgore presented for LS Christmas Program.** It will take place on Wednesday, December 14, 2022 with the pre-k-1st grade at 9 am and 2-5th at 2 pm.

**Julie Smith, Fine Arts Department, presented.** Annie is going on now! Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and children. Then auditions for middle school play are next week. Choir and orchestra have been busy, performing at St. Marks, Calvary Baptist Church. Both were filled with audience members. Two students were selected for Academy Orchestra youth Ensemble. Five students worked with Mr. Vano for all-regional choir auditions, and all were selected. There will be a December 5 Christmas Concert. Please attend.

**Used Uniforms and Upcyclers, was presented by Rebel Wilson.** There will be a used uniform drive on January 9-11, 2023 during morning carpool. A second Semester sale has been added for February 7 from 2:30-6:00 to take place in both the lower school and in the upper/middle school auditorium. Parents can donate all uniforms and spirit wear (just please wash!). Can sign up to help with used uniforms, and just reach out to anyone on these committees. .

**Hannah Bryan** reminded everyone to reset our Amazon Smile on our phone as it turns off once a year.

**Mary Lewis Dassinger** announced that the next meeting will be Friday, January 20, 2023 at 8:15 am at the Middle School Library.

**Mary Lewis Dassinger** thanked everyone for attending. Stacy Grobmeyer moved to adjourn which was seconded by Mary-Margaret Marks. The motion was unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Jamie Jones, Secretary**