



Friends School of Wilmington  
Parent Association Meeting Minutes  
Date: 9/13/23  
Location: Longleaf Center  
Time: 7:45 - 9:00am  
Minute Recorder: Chelsea Bradshaw  
Number of Attendees: Approximately 42 parents

**7:45 - 8:15am      Coffee & Tea Social**

**8:15 - 9:00am      Meeting**

**Welcome** offered by Chelsea

**Moment of Silence**

**Short Introductions Around the Room**

- In lieu of introductions around the room based on the number of attendees, parents rose their hands to indicate which cohorts were represented (Stepping Stones/Stargazers, K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade and middle school were all present).

**Purpose of the PA** – Sarah and Chelsea shared the purpose of the PA:

- Family Support
  - The role of the class parent was discussed and its critical role to connect families and build community through the group text threads and email threads
  - Parents were encouraged (whether a class parent or not) to feel empowered to organize events/meetups for your child's class and to use email/text threads when you need support from other parents.
- School & Community Support
  - The PA will create opportunities for parents to participate and support school events that the staff feel could benefit from parent participation and help to plan and organize other off-campus social and/or community service type activities.
  - This year, the PA will find intentional ways to support these events consistent with our emphasis on environmental stewardship and how we model this for our children.
- Faculty and Staff Appreciation
  - And then we want to not only find ways to show our appreciation during teacher appreciation week but in other ways throughout the year so we can honor the staff that give of so much of themselves for our children.



### **Quaker Meeting Norms & the PA Meetings**

- Sarah asked the group to identify characteristics of a Quaker meeting; parents volunteered suggestions (e.g., slower format, allowing time for reflection, open-mindedness, moments of silence, consensus building, respectful).
- PA will be working to implement Quaker meeting norms in PA meetings to acknowledge our roots and to bring understanding on what that might mean during our monthly meeting including:
  - Clear written agenda & a timekeeper to respect the time everyone's time.
  - All members of the group are asked to come with an open mind and prepared
  - All members are asked to support good order for the meeting (e.g., being mindful of not speaking more than is necessary/allow others to have a voice, giving full attention to the work of the meeting - minimizing distractions, listen to others empathetically, trust the light and be open to new truths)
  - Recognizing that the decision might not lie within this group.
- Staff is also now using the Quaker meeting format
- Quakerism Workshop for parents planned with Drew from Friends Council on Education. Date will be shared with parents once scheduled.

### **PA Pre-Work**

- Chelsea and Sarah provided an overview of the PA Pre-Work Survey and Volunteer Opportunities.
- At the time of the meeting, 39 parents had completed the survey and we've learned helpful information about talents and skills that are in our community. Survey will remain open for 48 hours.
- We want to be intentional in supporting the school. Sarah and Chelsea sought out teachers and staff who run big events at our school and inquired about what type of support is needed so staff can lean on parents to help. We recognize that it's not possible to do the planning for all of these events during these meetings, but the PA will connect and create committees/planning groups to support school events. We'll use the PA meeting times to check in on the work and planning that is happening in sub-committees and parents partnering with staff who are leading events.
- **Survey Results:**
  - Most responses so far came from the pre-K, 4<sup>th</sup> grade and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes
  - Most popular interests are:
    - Fall Festival Helpers
    - Off-campus community service
    - Teacher Appreciation Week
    - Parent education workshops
    - Spring Field Day and MLK Jr Day
- **Next Steps:** Sarah and Chelsea plan to follow up with each of the survey respondents and plug people in based on their interest and connect with everyone who indicated wanting to connect with them.



- **Communication:** FriendsMail is our mode of communication; please read it, we work closely with Rachel P to promote events and volunteer opportunities.
- **Fall Priorities** for PA Events 2023:
  - Class Parent communication
  - Sept/Oct/Nov Moonick
  - Workshop Series (2-3 in the first semester)
  - Grade/Cohort Level Hikes
  - Fall Festival / Book Character Parade support
  - Green Team / Community Service / Grounds work
- Chelsea asked parents if they have other ideas/events they feel passionately about to speak with her and Sarah.

### **Tony's Update**

- No new Covid cases reported since Tuesday (9/5)
- Drew from Friends Council to give parents an overview of Quakerism; date to be scheduled
- Tony offered to meet with parents, talk about Quakerism, give tour of campus
- Families new to friends are invited to "Coffee & Connection" next Wednesday, 9/20 from 8:15-9am for Q&A and campus tour
- Trivia Night planned for Friday, 10/13 (6-8pm)
- Division Specific event with Clair and Amy is in development

### **Open for Comments**

- A question was asked about the relationship between the Board and PA. Tony shared that the Board is responsible for strategic, high-level planning; not in the day-to-day operations of the school. E.g., Board is discussing enrollment goals, financial security. PA is focused on supporting the school, staff, day-to-day activities. Anyone is eligible to be a board member; typical term is 4 years.
- Comment was provided about parents being interested in knowing specific goals for events, e.g., specific goals for parent attendance at events (e.g., basketball game, soccer games). Ideas were shared about notifying younger cohorts when their older buddies are participating in an event to encourage attendance.
- There was a lively discussion of athletic booster ideas, including non-players making a spirit banner after school, having a "cheer squad" for sports teams, checking with other parents to help with childcare so more kids can be present as fans.
- Sarah reminded everyone to stay connected to FSW events through social media (Instagram and Facebook). Staff working on brand awareness in the community and parents were encouraged to interact with FSW posts to support awareness in the community. Rachel P mentioned adding soccer game dates to FriendsMail.



Ended with sharing of joys and a pause for silence.