

Friends School of Wilmington
Parent Association Meeting Minutes
Date: March 20, 2024
Location: Longleaf Center
Time: 8:00 - 9:00 am
Minute Recorder: Sarah McIntosh

8:00 - 8:15am Social and Gathering

8:15 – 8:16am Welcome, Moment of Silence (Chelsea Bradshaw, PA Co-Clerk)

8:16 - 8:20am Quaker Minute: Reflections on Internet Safety (All)

- Before Spring Break, we held a parent workshop on internet safety. Even if you didn't attend, let's take a moment this morning to reflect: How do our Quaker values help guide us in keeping our children safe online?
- There was a brief discussion about how parents can be the first line of defense in helping navigate online safety. Be aware of online chat features and share resources with each other. Talk openly to kids; discuss being positive stewards of the internet by leaning on your moral compass to consider what's right and wrong. Balance using the internet as a tool.
- Review [workshop presentation and materials](#) given out during the workshop.

8:20 - 8:25am March Teacher Appreciation Audrey Cox (5th grade parent)

- March recess coverage has been well received, Class Parents have been helpful in passing on any sign ups and making sure staff feels appreciated
- Stock the Staffroom sign ups are going well - few more sign ups needed; Allyson K asked that we store in the Advancement office until after GF day - keep the main table clear.
- April we are hoping to schedule guided meditation, yoga class. Does anyone have access to a massage chair and someone who could come onsite - teachers could sign up for 15 min slots? Susan Nance may have a contact
- May the Board of Trustees will sponsor a lunch and there will be a gratitude wall or notes of appreciation event.

8:25 - 8:30am Workshop Round Up and Community Work Day (Sarah McIntosh, PA Co-Clerk)

- Final workshop of the school year: Compost 101 with FSW parent and NC Composting Council Director, Kathryn Polk and guest from Wilmington Compost Company, scheduled Thursday April 18 @ 8:15 - 9:15am, Long Leaf Cottage
- Rain rain go away.... Community Work Day is canceled and will not be rescheduled.

8:30 - 8:35am Good Shepherd Update (Audrey Hammond (2nd+4th grade parent))

- Audrey has been representing FSW by building a relationship with GSC on Saturdays (e.g. pantry sorting, help in kitchen)
- FSW will volunteer **Every Third Thurs** 4:30- 7:15pm Adults Only. This is a kitchen cooking event. Each month, Audrey and Tony plus 3 FSW parents, 1 staff, 1 community member from the Wilmington Friends Meeting. The goal is to allow for more interaction and involvement in our local Quaker community.
- There are 2 openings next week!! Monday and Friday - [2024 Monthly sign up genius HERE](#)

8:35 - 8:40am Auction and Evening with Friends at Oceanic (Allyson Keating)

- Virtual Auction - coming up major fundraiser to benefit Annual Fund, collecting offerings now, traditional items will be included (ride the bus, name the road, teacher items)
- We will use the ClickBid platform, virtual opens it up to out-of-towners, extended family
- Auction Dates: Apr 29-May 5.
- Sat May 4 - Evening with Friends - adult only event @ Oceanic in WB. Our goal is for parent connection. Tickets on sale \$35/person. This event is something the Board of Trustees strongly suggested. It will include a focus on our 2024 Fund-A-Need: Campus half basketball court. Enhance our recess and PE programming. Facilities is working on location and considering long term plans

8:40 - 8:45am Upcoming Events

- 4th grade diaper drive, grade specific hikes, April 23 Moonick
- Please refer to online calendar

8:45 - 9:00am Tony's Update and Wrap-Up (Tony McCudden, Head of School)

- Campus Safety Update
 - New automatic gate system at Camellia - Pedestrian gate will be closed
 - Peiffer Gate will remain padlocked 8:30 - 2:30
- FSW Communication Styles
 - Admin is partnering with Rachel to figure out what the best way for classes to connect and communicate. Standardized tools may be considered rather than Whats app
 - FriendsMail timeline being considered; there is a concern that people aren't familiar with the calendar - 11 families came to school on Monday, which was a professional development day for staff and no school for students.
 - There are 45 new families signed up for the fall - we are focusing on how to improve communication
- New Family Welcome
 - Once families commit to attending, they become a member of our community - how can we engage them early on; we have started to add them to newsletter
 - Can there be more outreach from PA, start to engage early and often
 - Identify a clear system to welcome and Onboard new family
 - Idea: Could we have a "Sponsor family" that shows them the ropes, be their go-to person
 - 45 new families. Identifying how to reach them
 - Idea: Ice cream meet up in the summer

- Coffee & Connections with new New families - scheduled in April - coming soon!
- FSW Board of Trustee sub-committee Spiritual Quaker Committee meets monthly -
 - Tony will be meeting with many HoS in April in Philadelphia - we want to stay true as a welcoming community
 - We need to consider now how we interact during what will likely be a difficult election year
 - We need to realize that as a community there will be differences in opinions
 - Make sure we acknowledge the differences, modeling good behavior
 - Braver Angels - Brit S. mentioned a group that promotes dialogue might be a good resource. Possible parent workshop.
 - What is important is that we need to start now and have it in place Aug 15.

Meeting adjourned.