

Minutes of the February 11, 2008 PACA Meeting:

Columbus Academy parents in attendance: Jay Beatley, Ken Brown, Sara Browning, Barbara Castelli, Ann Flaherty, Karen Hart, Jeff Jeffers, Kara Jenkins, Kevin Jenkins, Ahmet Kahraman, Lexie Lazarus, Paula Marrie, Prabha Narayanan, Ursula O'Brien-Schroeder, Femi Obikunle, Cindy Poehlmann, Eric Ransom, Joyce Simson, and Lynne Souba.

Introduction and Approval of Minutes: At 7:00 p.m., PACA Board President Joyce Simson called to order the meeting, held in the Trustees' Room. She asked and received approval of the January 2007 PACA minutes which had been previously emailed to Board Members.

Joyce then introduced the guest speaker, Adam Cavnar, Academic Dean of Columbus Academy.

Guest Speaker Adam Cavnar: Adam has been teaching Mathematics at Academy since 1996. In 2007, he added responsibilities and became Academy's first-ever Academic Dean. Some of his duties include professional development, including coordinating and leading late start Wednesday sessions held throughout the school year. This year he is also teaching Algebra 1.

Adam is responsible for implementation of a new software program, a curriculum mapping system called "Atlas". Atlas is a popular and tested software program used by other independent and public schools. He used a projector and laptop to share an overview of the software at this meeting.

Adam describes CA's curriculum as "everything your child experiences on campus". He thinks everything the school "values and does" are defined as curriculum. He also believes CA should be "offering a common thread of skills" to every student. The use of the Atlas software database will provide CA an online view of curriculum scope and sequence: when and what topics are taught during the academic year. Before purchasing Atlas, this type of information was available in files (paper and electronic) across campus.

This year Adam is working with the faculty to map content and skills acquired through CA's curriculum. It takes training and time for faculty to build the database because of the need for common input and compliance standards.

Adam briefly walked attendees through an overview of the software. Atlas provides the ability to browse by grade or subject (or topic). Curriculum can be evaluated across academic periods. It also includes a searchable database.

Atlas will permit Adam and faculty to review "integrated activities". The software provides a robust view, for example, of skills shared in common across subjects, grades, teachers, etc.

At some point, CA parents may have access to Atlas too. There is also the possibility of sharing CA's curriculum with other Atlas subscribers.

The software was purchased through a state of Ohio grant. Adam is grateful to Dorothy Dell, CA's State Funds Coordinator, for coordinating the acquisition of Atlas.

Joyce thanked Adam for his presentation. She commented that the implementation of Atlas fits with the school's current strategic plan of becoming a "national" school.

Report from PACA Treasurer-Elect, Lexie Lazarus: Lexie shared hard copies of PACA's financial position through February 10th. To date, total PACA net income is approximately \$105,000.

Committee Reports:

Prabha Narayanan, Chair of Parent Education, is currently hosting two online (audio plus slides) seminar sessions: "Raising Resilient Children and Adolescents" by Robert Brooks of the Harvard Medical School; and "The Childhood Roots of Adult Happiness" by Edward Hallowell, an accomplished author. She thanked Adam Cavnar for helping her set up and host each session. Attendance has been good, with plenty of meaningful parent discussion. Prabha thinks both presentations are "good quality instruction".

Adam asked if PACA would consider a parent education library. Sara Browning commented that the LS has a parent resource area with many good titles (both print and audio) available for checkout. Others mentioned that MS also offers parent education titles for circulation. Prabha will collect a list of titles to ascertain the depth of CA's parent education collection.

Ann Flaherty and Barb Castelli updated the group on the Antiques Show scheduled for April 25, 26 and 27th. To date, 35 booths have been sold to antiques dealers. Also, Dr. Larry Griffin, parent of a 7th grade student and a member of the Ohio Wesleyan University Music department, has a band and will perform jazz music at the Friday, April 25th Gala event. There will be a dance floor that evening for dancing! Finally, the Antiques Show's online auction has 38 items already posted for bidding.

Eric Ransom, Co-Chair of Arts, told the group that 60 tickets have already been sold for the February 23rd Faculty and Parent Talent Show. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. All proceeds will go to school art and music programs. To encourage attendance, Eric provided each faculty and staff member with one complimentary ticket.

Lynne Souba reported that the next SCRIP campaign will occur after spring break.

Paula Marrie, US Head Mother, provided the group with a report for each grade. Ninth and eleventh grade parents are planning social events for later this year. Tenth grade parents have a lunch scheduled for January 30th and a dinner March 1st. Parents of seniors have scheduled an ice cream social.

Femi Obikunle, MS Head Father, reported on plans for an upcoming meeting with Magnus Maccow, Head of Middle School. At that session they will discuss plans for a PACA-sponsored outside event this spring.

Jeff Jeffers, LS Head Father, told the group that this year's LS Fair will be Saturday April 12th. Meanwhile, Jeff reported that donations of healthy snacks by CA parents is going well and meets the needs of LS faculty and students.

New Business:

Ken Brown, PACA President-Elect, is updating PACA Board job descriptions. He'll report on his work at a future meeting. As part of this update, Joyce mentioned that the "Host Family" volunteer job currently staffed by PACA Member-At-Large, Debbie Daoud, will become a Board position next year.

With committee reports finished, Joyce concluded the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by Sara Browning, PACA Secretary