

## **Minutes of the March 5, 2008 PACA Meeting:**

**Columbus Academy parents in attendance:** Jay Beatley, Ken Brown, Laura Bowen , Jeff Jeffers, Shelby Rhyne, Lexie Lazarus, Paula Marrie, Femi Obikunle, Cynthia Zeigler, Eric Ransom, Joyce Simson, Paula Marrie, Donna Caplinger, Susan Pickering, Mary Jo Vara, Bernadette van den Tillaart, Beverly Moore, Leanne Keith, Erich Hunker, Cathy Hile, Kathy Turner, and Lynne Souba.

**Introduction and Approval of Minutes:** At 8:05 a.m., PACA Board President Joyce Simson called to order the meeting, held in the Trustees' Room. She asked and received approval of the February 2008 PACA minutes which had been previously emailed to Board Members. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Eric Ransom and seconded by Jay Beatley. Approved by a verbal "aye", no "nays."

Joyce then introduced the guest speaker, Aaron Marbley, Academy senior and Student President. He would speak later on during the meeting.

**Report from PACA Treasurer, Mary Jo Vara:** Mary Jo reviewed the financial statement with the committee and noted:

\$50,000 was paid out for athletic grants – these were funds generated by the Charlie David Dinner.

\$8,000 was added to Antique Show revenues since last meeting.

## **Committee Reports:**

Cynthia Ziegler, **LS Head Parent**, reported: Heart Association fundraiser was a success; 4<sup>th</sup> grade Treasure Island was a success; LS Fair plans are progressing nicely. Jeff Jeffers has volunteered to be "dunked" at the fair so get in line!

**MS Head parents** were absent but several of us reported: Latin convention is this weekend and the children are excited; MS dance is this weekend; 7<sup>th</sup> grade mom's night out was a blast; 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents' party at the Hilsheimers' was great.

Ruby Bridges, civil rights pioneer and one of the first students to integrate a white school, is speaking in the MS today. Ms. Bridges' visit was underwritten by PACA via last year's grant process.

**US parents** Paula Marrie and Jay Beatley reported that PACA funded ice cream social (Dairy Queen) was a "hit"; Jay wondered why more of the low fat treats were not consumed.

**Arts:** Eric Ransom reported the great success of the Parent Talent Show and is offering his newly acquired skills as an event planner. Next year Eric recommends a small committee be assembled to do many of the many tasks Eric handled this year (eg. food, talent, sound). He expressed gratitude to Ken and Blythe Brown and Casey Merkey for all their efforts.

Results: 10 “acts” appeared; 100 attended; PACA will net about \$2,000. Joyce strongly urged the message next year be that any parent who has a child in the arts at Academy should (want to) be at this event.

Ken Brown wants us to think about how we can promote the fact that PACA raised these funds for the purpose of awarding grants to various groups at the Academy.

**Communications:** Laura Bowen asked if your needs were met with emails and reminders. Please remember to communicate anything for the Viking Voice, etc. to her.

**Faculty Appreciation:** Bev Moore tells us that teachers are very appreciative of the periodic meals and monthly snacks provided by PACA.

**Antiques Show:** Joyce reported that the committee is very hard at work. In addition to corporate sponsors (Where do you work and why haven't you sponsored?), we are looking for individual sponsors: these begin at \$350.00 and perks included tickets to the show.

AS is using the first new show manager in 12 years and things seem great. Academy parent and OWU professor, Larry Griffin, and his jazz band will perform.

Online bidding has begun!

**LS Fair: April 12<sup>th</sup>,** still need volunteers. We will invite new Academy families for the 2008 – 09 school year to attend. Last year's fair netted \$700.

**Members at Large:** Joyce is working with Lisa Newmark and PACA Treasurer Mary Jo Vara to update and document PACA bylaws.

**Parent Education:** Jeff Jeffers reported that the last offering presented by Dr. Ned Howell was very, very good. He and other Academy parents watched it with 50 other schools in a “live” lecture format. Both Joyce and Jeff recommended parents get the very straightforward book by Dr. Howell which stresses that keeping children connected to families offers the best chance for life-long happiness.

Shelby Rhyne appreciated the videoconferencing format which she found flexible and allowed interactive discussion among the CA group afterwards. Eric Ransom suggested we look into a “parent resource” library at CA.

Prabha Narayanan is setting up a third parent seminar and will announce topics, dates and times soon.

**Scrip:** Next offering is the first day AFTER spring break. \$4,500 has been raised to date – this year's goal is \$7,000.

**Senior Party:** The date has been set and plans are set. All parents of seniors are requested to provide toddler, current and in-between photos for the DVD/gift.

**Viking Corner:** Kathy Turner reported that we are low on sizes but this is expected for this time of year. A clearance sale is coming up. Cathy asked that all Academy teams remember

that special orders are happily accepted through the store. Year end goal is to clear \$10,000.

**Guest Speaker:** Aaron Marbley, senior, Student Council president

This year's goal was threefold:

Focus on the student, not just athletics. This was accomplished by showcasing musical talent, for one, at all school gatherings.

Create a balance between the demands of school and person. Dodge ball tournaments were scheduled and videos at dances were used.

Wisely use PACA grants (\$1500) from last year. This was accomplished by supporting more broad ideas for student clubs, eg. Super Smash Brothers, economics club, political club (which brought in the League of Women Voters for a presentation.), Freshman "cruise night", an evening of dinner and dancing.

Aaron encourages those who follow to continue to support activities and speakers for clubs. He feels, "it's not our place to tell students they can't meet and have fun after school."

### **New Business:**

Liz Burns showed us copies of the "**Class Art Collections**" to be raffled at the Antique Show. Grades participating are pre-k – 5<sup>th</sup>. There are 22 canvases to be raffled the evening of the Antique Show. Tickets can be pre-ordered; contact Liz.

Joyce is forming the **Grants Committee** whose job will be to review grant requests submitted to PACA, resolve any questions with the requestor or need for more detail and to prioritize requests and make recommendations to the PACA board on which grants to approve. Money for the grants comes from PACA through our fundraising efforts. Joyce reviews the grants under consideration because money can sometimes be available from other sources.

Please contact Joyce if you are interested in serving on this brief, but all important committee. The meetings are scheduled for: April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

Ken Brown, PACA President-Elect, is putting together the nominating committee for **next year's PACA Board**. Please direct ideas and possible interested people to Ken.

An "online calendar" is available on the CA website. It is a helpful, current tool for setting possible meetings, etc.

Joyce concluded the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Bowen, PACA acting Secretary, Communications