

Minutes of the April 2, 2008 PACA Meeting:

Columbus Academy parents in attendance: Jan Anasis, Evelyn Kelley-Antoine, Carol Aronowitz, Jay Beatley, Kenny Brown, Sara Browning, Liz Burns, Barbara Castelli, Beth Fisher, Ann Flaherty, Cathy Hile, Erich Hunker, Jeff Jeffers, Leanne Keith, Lexie Lazarus, Paula Marrie, Beverly Moore, Prabha Narayanan, Ben A. Nicola, Susan Pickering, Shelby Rhyne, Lynne Souba, Jan Thompson, Mary Jo Vara, and Cynthia Zeigler.

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 March 2008 PACA minutes.

Guest Speakers, Grant Recipients: Several faculty members who had applied for and received PACA grants in 2007 shared their gratitude with the group.

Sheri Dillon, MS and US Health, and Shaun Heale, 9th grade Dean of Students and a chemistry teacher, thanked PACA for supporting the US "Halls and Walls" project. \$3,000 of the \$8,000 funded by PACA had already been used to create special photo montages throughout US. They thanked Bob Lee for providing wonderful photos of 12th grade students and their Kindergarten "buddies." Other displays pay tribute to recent community service projects and teamwork through CA sports.

Andy Rahe, an US Arts teacher and CA alum, thanked PACA for \$17,800 in grant funds. He used it to purchase a special outdoor kiln on campus. The outdoor kiln has provided new and special opportunities for CA art students. He also hopes to use the space for welding and sculpture. Andy thanked Doug Bennett for his assistance in managing the construction of it.

Kristen Oeth, LS Librarian, used PACA funds to purchase a special mounted projector and screen. The equipment is "used constantly" by LS faculty, as well as a recent visiting author, for teaching.

Mary Eve Corrigan, a MS Science teacher, thanked PACA for grant money used to host Ruby Bridges, a civil rights hero. Ms. Bridges recently visited CA. Mrs. Corrigan and two of her students shared with PACA how important it was to have a person of Ms. Bridges stature visit with CA students.

Guest Speakers, The Collaborative, Inc.: Erich Hunker introduced several people from The Collaborative, Inc., a firm hired to conduct a master facilities plan for the school. This is the same firm that assisted CA with the major expansion of the campus several years ago. The genesis for a master facilities plan comes from the recent strategic plan approved by the school's Board of Trustees. The gentlemen from Collaborative expect to be finished with the master plan by June. They will then share their results with the Board of Trustees.

After meeting and interviewing the Trustees, Administration and every department and division of the school (including students), Collaborative was looking for an opportunity to speak with parents. This meeting was that forum.

The guests shared the current facilities "wish list", which includes (a) creating an identity for the MS division, (b) renovating locker rooms, (c) expanding the dining services area and (d) developing a outdoor or separate campus learning center for environmental studies.

The guests believe CA already has a beautiful, high quality facility. They think CA compares well to a small college campus. They emphasized the importance of having facilities that support the school's distinctive programs.

Many parents in the room asked questions and made excellent suggestions for further consideration, including (a) more campus meeting space, (b) indoor recess space for LS, (c) more and better parking space, (d) more and better walking paths and lighting, (e) more space for quiet study, (f) a need for a permanent shelter for sports (uses to include concessions, restrooms, inclement weather space) and (g) a need for a recreational field house to support the school's large athletics program.

Erich Hunker concluded this part of the meeting. He promised the Board of Trustees would review the recommendations later this year. New building projects would be considered in conjunction with additional endowment fundraising planned to coincide with CA's centennial in 2011.

Report from PACA Treasurer: Mary Jo Vara reminded all Committee Chairs to use PACA's tax identification number when purchasing items for projects to avoid sales tax charges. She also urged all Chairs to submit expenses for reimbursement as soon as possible so she can wrap up this PACA financial year.

Committee Reports:

Joyce asked all Board members to contact Evelyn Kelley-Antoine, Volunteers Chair, with any revisions or edits to the PACA Volunteer Interest Form. The 08/09 Form will begin to be distributed to parents in May.

Viking Corner will have a year-end sale Friday, May 2nd.

Beth Fisher reported that the last Service Day for US students was cancelled due to the April blizzard.

The SCRIP program has already launched its last sale of the academic year. They expect many parents to purchase gift cards for graduation presents.

Prabha Narayanan, Parent Education Chair, has added another session of taped broadcast lectures. It will be held April 30th and May 2nd with advertising slated for the Viking Voice.

The LS Fair will be held April 12th.

Beverly Moore, Co-Chair of Faculty Recognition, told the group that any remaining funds in her budget would be used towards a breakfast for faculty.

Jan Thompson, Co-Chair of Athletics, reported that spring team photos are scheduled to occur this month. A spring athletics program will be published and distributed soon. Also, she and Chair-Elect, Ben Nicola, had recruited two parents for Chair-Elect positions next year.

PACA's largest fundraiser, the Antiques Show, is scheduled for later this month, April 25-27. Volunteers are still needed for many shifts of work. There will be local advertising of the event in the Dispatch and Columbus Monthly. Also, yard signs are available from the Committee. Liz Burns, a parent volunteer, shared an update regarding the Antiques Show fundraiser "Masterworks" project. Beautiful art has been created in LS and 5th grade art classes. This art will be raffled off to parents at the Antiques Show.

Jeff Jeffers, LS Head Father, reported that Special Friends Day will be Friday, May 9th.

New Business:

Ken Brown, PACA President-Elect, has formed a Nominating Committee to identify and recruit new PACA Board members for the 08/09 academic year.

With committee reports finished, Joyce concluded the meeting.

Submitted by Sara Browning, PACA Secretary