

Minutes from Parent Community Meeting for November 1, 2011

Attendees (p=phone; x=present; v-vacation)

Baskin, Ginnie	Gould, Colleen	Meyer, Nija	Snowdon, Sabrina
Bowden, Michelle	Hart, Rachel	Meyers, Christi	Sutherland, Delee
Coats, Barbara	Hart, Sherry (?)	Miller, Ann	Taylor, Teri
Corbin, Karen	Hueber, Vicki	Moss, Mira	Valastro, Nina
Cornelius, Sheila	Jackson, Lisa	Obenshain, Betty	Vaughan, Ginny
Dave, Meenaxi	Kelly, Kathleen	Olson, Amy	Williams, Sharon
Dooley, Haynes	Ledet, Elizabeth	Roberts, Robbie	Dr. Stuart Gulley
Duncan, Tammi	Lefar, Cathy	Rohrer, Kathy	Mr. Ron McCollum
Ellis, Suzy	Mancuso, Lisa	Russ, Sonja	Lin Pahl
Freeman, Cheryl	Mattingly, Amy	Schifilliti, Sheila	
Gallagher, Valerie	Patti, Mayer	Sims, Sandie	

Call to order by Suzy Ellis, Parent Community President

Dr. Stuart Gulley, President:

- Thousands of Trick or Treaters, great homecoming events, parade was a huge hit. Dr. Freer is away, Dr Gulley reminded us that much of his energy is being spent searching for our new leaders.
- We have 8 finalists for Mr. McCollum's position we hope to have this position filled by the first of the year. Our group consist of 5 men 3 women 6 Caucasians and 2 African Americans. In this group we have 4 CEO's, 4 principals, and 1 Director level person, 6 of these candidates are from our college preps world, and 2 are from higher education positions. Four of these candidates have PhD's.
- Dr. Freer, VP and Dean for Student Life, is starting the search for the replacement for our Director of Athletics replacing Dave Chandler; we have a committee working on this and should be completed by Spring break.
- Sadly today Mr. Lineberry informed Dr. Gulley of his plans to retire this year too, (formal announcement will go out today) instead of next year. This allows all new leadership to be in place next year together especially since we will be going through our accreditation review. Mr.McCollum's successor would be the person who would lead the process to hire Mr. Lineberry's successor since he/she would be supervising this person. We do not feel we have ample time to have this person in place by the next school year. Therefore Dr. Freer with be the interim principal for next year. This will be in addition to his duties he has already as VP and Dean for Student Life. Searching next year nationally for a permanent replacement.

Mr. Ron McCollum, Vice President and Headmaster:

- Dr. Freer will be outstanding as our new interim principal for the Upper School. For all of you that will be Upper School Parents please throw all of your support and cooperation behind him.
- As stated in the last meeting 13 national merit semi-finalist that is the 2nd most in school history and 27 commended students for National Merit that too is the 2nd most in Academy history! We have 4 National Achievement Semi-Finalist and 5 National Achievement Outstanding participants for the 1st time in a long time we have one student is a semi-finalist in both.
- Our Debate Team won the St Marts in Dallas that is one of the most prestigious debate tournaments in the country. We have 2 semi-finalist in the Siemen's' Math and Science in Technology Competition and we are the only independent school in Georgia in the competition.

- The report from the Woodward North Review Team Woodward North report is complete and we will get the results out pretty soon.

Approval of Minutes for September 2011 Meeting- Barbara Coats and Haynes Dooley motioned and seconded

Report of the Treasurer, Barbara Coats: Statements from last month were distributed and asked if there were any questions and there were none. All going smoothly and on target!

Presidents Report, *Suzy Ellis*:

- Welcoming Kathleen Kelly Katz and thanking everyone for working so swiftly to get her approved.
- Changing nominating dates so we have a motion to approve the new by-laws motioned and properly seconded by Haynes. Unanimously approved.
- Suzy Ellis spoke of the great job she felt that Chris Freer will do next year in his interim position.

School Officer's and Committees-at-Large Reports

Upper School, *Delee Sutherland*: Veterans Day to be honoured, red, white and blue ribbons to be worn by all. 10th grade did Fall Teacher Luncheon great job. Parade went well. Pizza Party went well not many people came due to weather and delays during football game. 11:15 was the time it had to end because of school regulations. Upper School Parent Meeting next week Nov.8 –Mr Lineberry regarding student Eng., Donut day is in 2 weeks...Holliday decorating soon

Middle School, *Lisa Jackson*: day with no parents, 7 and 8 graders about 400 kids, Teacher appreciation luncheon, coming up new parent exam meetings, Chic-fil-A biscuits coming up for exams, another appreciation breakfast

Lower School, *Tammy Duncan*: Super Goober huge success, fall football extravaganza, book fair well attended, Big Halloween Parties, 5th grade sponsored teacher luncheon, 4th grade parent social at SHOUT restaurant.

Primary School, *Amy Mattingly*: Our fall Parent Meeting was September 22nd in the PS Library. The PS administration gave a presentation on how to identify your child's learning style. The PS computer specialist also went over some helpful information regarding the WA website and edline.

- Our second Teacher Appreciation event was September 27th. It was a huge success. The teachers were very appreciative of the efforts of the volunteers and the parents.
- Our Book Fair ended yesterday. It was wonderful. For the second year, the PS used Through the Looking Glass (instead of Scholastic) to supply the books. Their company does a wonderful job of selecting quality books for the kids. There was a team of volunteers that helped to pull it off. They did a wonderful job.
- Yesterday we had the PS Halloween "extravaganza"! It is a day-long celebration filled with picnics, parades, costumes, and parties. For the first time, the parade was video-taped by US students and posted on the WA website. Parents were excited to hear that the parade would be on the website.
- The school has been wonderfully decorated for Halloween and Thanksgiving decorations go up today.
- We found a wonderful replacement for the PSPC Vice-chair position. Kathleen Kelly Katz has agreed to take on the role. She will do a wonderful job!!
- Upcoming events include:
 - Two community projects kick-off in November. The canned food drive starts this week. The PS Holiday Star Tree, benefitting the Boys and Girls Club, also begins in November.

- We will be treating our teachers and staff to a small “treat” on November 8th. We’ve tried this year to introduce some small appreciation gestures. We are setting up some fresh baskets of apples and home-baked apple pies and apple breads in the teacher break room next week.

Woodward North, Nija Meyers: Our September 28th Parent Community meeting with Dr. Gulley as our keynote speaker was a success, with about 75 parents in attendance. On Wednesday (November 2nd) we have another Parent Community meeting, with our keynote speakers being a panel of former WN students who are now in 8th grade at Main Campus. They will talk about the transition from WN to Main, their experiences, the bus ride, a day in the life. Etc. Our 5th and 6th grade students will attend this meeting, in addition to our parent body. Our goal is to continue to increase WN's connection with Main Campus and to minimize anxieties.

- In tune with that goal, last Tuesday, October 25th, we had a WN tour of the Middle School and Upper School, attended by ~ 50 WN parents. After the tour there was a luncheon and Q&A with Dr. Gulley, Mr. McCollum, Dr. Freer, Mr. Lineberry and Mr. Notestine. Our parents really benefitted from the personal element of the tour, and we are now working to put together another WN tour of Main Campus, this one for our 4th-5th and 6th graders.
- We are gearing up for our upcoming events:
 - Rock & Read on [November 11th](#) will kick off our annual Book Fair from [November 14-18](#), with the theme this year of "Reading Is Out of This World." Scholastic will continue to provide our childrens' selections, but this year "Read It Again" provides our middle school through adult selections. We will once again be collecting donations for Terranova.
 - PK/K Thanksgiving celebration on [Friday, November 18th](#)
 - Coordination of Teacher Holiday Gift Giving to Lead and Specialty Teachers
 - Collections for My House, WN's chosen philanthropic program
 - Holiday parties on [Friday, December 17th](#)

Super Goober Report, Sharon Williams: Awesome job Sharon! Huge Success, outstanding balances coming in and report soon. Thanks to many who showed up without kids in Primary School. Chick was a huge success, the kids loved them. The money machine was a hit and so was the slide. New craft did not do well, many pots and seeds left. At end of day we cleaned garage and baseball stand. Be mindful of what you leave in storage/garage, causes rodent issues, use more plastic bends not cardboard.

Parent Programming Report, Mira Moss:

- Neil White: 85 parents attended. Mr. White was an excellent speaker and we received very positive feedback. Mr. White signed books for many of the parents who attended. He was able to stay and speak to the Debate Team about his experiences as a nationally ranked debate participant and about his book.
- Parent-Connect: Launched Woodward’s first webinar series for parents. The subscription to this service provides parents with on demand access to 8 monthly nationally recognized speakers. The first webinar was in October and featured a “Teens and Alcohol” topic.
- Other Events: Internet Safety week we had two speakers – Connie White at Main Campus and Chris Silvers at WN. Both events were well attended. For Ms. White we had 35 attendees and for Mr. Silvers we had 30.
- Upcoming Events:
 - November Parent-Connect Event: Our next webinar series will be held on Monday, November 7th. The topic will be on difference in learning style between boys and girls and will feature Gurian Institute speakers. We featured a speaker from the Gurian Institute last March.
 - Shari Obrentz: Dr. Obrentz is associate dean at Emory University. She will be speaking at two sessions next week. One for PS/LS and one for MS/US.
- Communications:
 - Web page: Begin updating our web page for next semester.
 - Get the word out about the webinars: Hope to have everyone try the series.
 - Any suggestions are welcome.

Consignment Shop Report, *Terri Taylor*: Checks to be written Nov 1, cold weather things will be ready to roll

Concession Stand, *Karen Corbin*: Weather was a huge factor during homecoming game, not good for our business. On Nov 11th we should have a game and the concession stand will be open. Thank you to who OB's donated 100 BBQ sandwiches

Mentor Program, *Lisa Mancuso*: Available for any students that come, Kathy LeFar will be chair for next year. New admits may be next January

Social Event Committee, *Sonja Russ*: After last meeting the planning meeting we went back to "A Evening under the Woodward Stars!" The previous theme did not give the right vibe. \$50 per person is the usual registration fee. Diamonds and Denim will be type of attire.

New Business, *Suzy Ellis*:

- Nov. 7th and 8th are the meetings for Google doc class with Nneka Robinson
- Chair for our nominating committee is Haynes Dooley-changed the bylaws, and now we will let the nominating committee to meet in January. 6 people to be nominated for the committee. Chair of committee will be Haynes Dooley. Committee will consist of Sabrina Snowden, Elizabeth Ledet, Shelia Cornelius, Patty Mayer, and Kathleen Kelly. Haynes gave a quick introduction of nominating procedures to the board.
- Keep your eye out of people that have worked hard in each of your schools good grade level coordinators, etc. Suggest to the committee you don't give the invite
- Keep eye on changes of calendar and make sure you update

Adjournment motioned and properly seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:40am.

Submitted by

Cheryl Freeman, Parent Community Executive Board Secretary