

MINUTES OF NICHOLS SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING ON MAY 12th, 2008

ATTENDEES

S. Angelakos; C. Augustine; J. Beecher; A. Bellows; L. Bell-Chopra; J. Borgesi; D. Bourne; P. Catipovic; S. Chevli; M. Donahoe; J. Ennis; L. Fox; M. Grenda; E. Gurney; J. Hamilton; G. Higgins; N. Hoerner; M. Jones; L. Logel; J. McManus; J. Munro; M. Parentis; S. Randaccio; L. Schoene; W. Schutte; J. Spangenthal; L. Vossler; L. Wright; A. Yerkovich

REPORT OF ELIZABETH GURNEY FOR THE HEADMASTER

- thanked Chris Augustine for all her hard work as President of the Association and all the other members of the Association
- Linda Fox and Joyce Angert retiring
- Gyda Higgins leaves the Middle School to become Director of Parent Relations
- Jill Robins, new to Nichols, will be joining the Development Office
- Connie Klopp moves from Admissions to the Middle School
- Emma Wadsworth moves from the Front Office to Admissions
- Denise Hathaway moves from Development to the Front Office
- Auction was very successful under the leadership of Beth Munro and Katie Collins; live auction on a par with last year's; silent auction with fewer items exceeded last year's proceeds; expect to net around \$150,000
- few remaining "green" bags are available for sale
- Graduation is on June 6th, the speaker is Michael Roizen, Class of '63
- re construction project - on June 12th Mitchell Hall will be closed completely till mid August for replacement of the heating system; staff will be temporarily relocated in the Middle School; driveway will also be closed; Rink and parking can be accessed via New Amsterdam parking lot; Middle School parking lot will also be available

REPORT OF DR ARANYA MARITIME, HEAD OF THE UPPER SCHOOL

- Kelly Ostendorf, Upper School History awarded a sabbatical for next year – will be studying ways to introduce more geography into our History dept
- Caitlin Crowell will replace her – this fall she substituted in the English department, and prior to that she was an adjunct at Yale, currently working on her PhD in Womens' History; known to many students for proctoring the AP exams in recent years
- Kaprice Smith, Director of Multicultural Affairs, will be leaving
- College Counseling search continues for Chris Writer's replacement
- Student Council elections just taken place - Alex Logel and Phil Rimmler are the new co-presidents
- this week Student Conduct Committee nominations and elections take place
- now in Spring Dress Code – polo shirts or dress shirts without ties are allowed but shirts should still be tucked in
- 2 days full dress code required – Friday 23rd and 30th May for Cum Laude and Awards Ceremonies
- Senior Workshop Day this Friday, May 16th– arranging a picnic for the School
- will be instituting a Community Service requirement in the Upper School starting next year; 12 hours a year required to be carried out either inside or outside the School, eg working on Nichols' Auction would count
- Tom Franz will be Director of Community Service and will be responsible for co-ordinating all the hours – letter from Aranya Maritime and form to follow; web site will list opportunities available
- will consider whether hours already accrued will count towards the new requirement

REPORT OF JOHN MUNRO, ASST HEADMASTER AND HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Allan Hayes will be absent for last 12 days of school while undergoing knee surgery; his morning classes will be conducted by Nancy Matthewson, who currently works in the Book Store, and who is a Certified Elementary School teacher who also has a Masters in Counselor

Education; Wendy Mittlefehldt, currently teaching Math in the Middle School, will cover his afternoon Math and Science classes

- George Kloepfer having hip surgery in June, but does not anticipate missing any school
- Christine Roach, a former Middle School teacher, will be coming in to teach 2 sections of 7th Grade US History
- Wendy Mittlefehldt will increase her hours to teach 1 section of 5th and 6th grade Math and 2 sections of 7th grade Math
- Sheila Zamor will replace Kaprice Smith as Director of Multi Cultural Affairs; will continue as 6th, 7th and 8th grade French teacher but will drop 5th grade grammar course
- new Uniform policy agreed earlier in the year; recently emailed a survey to Middle School parents to solicit feedback – 82% response rate
- the goal is to improve the learning environment by eliminating some of the competition, peer pressure, social stigmas and distractions occurring with current dress code; wish to emphasize character and personality rather than appearance
- Flynn and O’Hara and Land’s End will be suppliers; hope to have a trade in program for used clothes
- the Upper School does not intend to have a uniform but efforts will be made to improve the standard of dress of the students

REPORT OF ANN BELLOWS, UPPER SCHOOL GRADE REP COORDINATOR

- 9th grade reps plan another parent coffee at Bagel Jays; on April 11th a cocktail party for parents was held at the Buffalo Yacht Club
- 10th grade reps are organizing the sophomore picnic to be held at the Canoe Club in Canada on June 11th after the last exam
- 11th grade reps organized a breakfast in late March
- 12th grade reps are putting together the senior picnic for May 16th; they also held a St Patrick’s Day breakfast

REPORT OF SASHA YERKOVICH, MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADE REP COORDINATOR

- congratulated 7th and 8th grade reps for putting together a 7th/8th grade dance which went off very well with good attendance
- thanked all grade reps for hard work and passion and asked them to encourage their friends to serve in this capacity

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **TEACHER AND STAFF APPRECIATION BREAKFAST**
will be held next Monday, May 19th. Letters/emails have been sent out requesting food donations. Committee is chaired by Jackie Ruotsi and Andrea Ferrin.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- The Minutes of the Parents' Association General Meeting on March 4th 2008 were approved upon motion by Jackie Spangenthal and seconded by Ann Bellows.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Chris Augustine thanked everyone for all their work over the year for the Association with a special thanks to parents of seniors who will be leaving – Joanne Broad, Cathy Ackerman and Kathy Brasso.
- Stephanie Angelakos was welcomed as the incoming President of the Parents' Association

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Jackie Ennis and seconded by Lori Vossler.