

## Minutes from HSA General Meeting December 18, 2012

1. **Jean Boland welcomed** the group and introduced the Board and LSAT members who were present (Board - Diana Rojas, Wes Hallman, Rachel Blessing, Linwood Jolly, Mr. Trogisch, Claudia Morris) (LSAT : John Mitchell, Becky Vaughn, Roxana Moayed)
2. **Security Measures at Walls** –In light of the recent events in Newtown, CT, Mr. Trogisch reported on a crisis team meeting to review SWW emergency lockdown procedures and security measures for the building.

There will be a lock-down drill on Friday during advisory period. Protocol during lock-down is as follows: Call to 911; staff and students move to secure classrooms with doors locked and lights off; all cell phones are switched off and attendance is taken; parents are notified over Jupiter Grades and a robo call.

Since our classroom doors lock from the inside and lock-down requires doors to lock from the outside, Mr. Trogisch has checked into the situation and is waiting to hear back on how it will be remedied.

### 3. **Proposed Expansion to Frances Stevens Campus**

As part of the Chancellor's plan to close schools, announced on November 13, 2012, SWW could be asked to move to nearby Frances Stevens Campus and expand enrollment to 800 incorporating Frances Stevens' grades 9 – 12.

- While the SWW Board has issued a statement in response, stating that no decision or action should be taken until the SWW community has more info and time to respond, Mr. Trogisch was asked to convene a task force to look at the issue from all perspectives and come up with a position paper on what we expect the future of SWW to be before a January 15<sup>th</sup> decision on what schools will close.
- Parent, Robert Wilkins told of the 3 – 4 meetings he has attended and does not feel DCPS will be anywhere near ready to announce closings by January 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Parent, Ed Lazere recommended that an inclusive task force be convened asap with a specific timeframe and goal to come up with a vision for SWW.
- John Mitchell shared that the LSAT strongly believes SWW community should have the option to weigh in. Further, parents need to begin talking about how they feel so that their ideas are represented moving forward, particularly the freshman parents who chose SWW for specific reasons.
- Trogisch and others were adamant that any change SWW needed to be fully funded with the same academic excellence it has come to know and maintain throughout the years.
- Linwood and Roxanne both encouraged parents to prepare to rally and answer the call when Mr. Trogisch needs our help.

#### **4. Fundraising/Budget Report**

- Jean and Diana reported that \$55,000 had been raised since the beginning of the year from parents alone. Though incoming contributions have leveled off, at the half-year mark, this is a record and they attribute these results to repeated emails, back-to-school week, Ward parties, the iPad drawing and solicitations with directory.
- Diana says the HSA is considering another Phonathon to raise another 20k from parents who have not yet given. Lazere and others cautioned, not to overlook parents who have already given—they will generally give more when asked, particularly if we provide specific initiatives that will not be fulfilled if we don't raise the money.
- Jean reviewed this year's budget. She reported that we were close to spending the funds that we have and looking at requests coming down the pike like \$14k in requests from sports teams. Encouraging the fundraising that goes on among specific groups with activities that need funding (e.g., Costa Rico trip).

#### **5. Other Business**

- Communications – Highlighted the wonderful job Diana Rojas is doing on the Sunday bulletin and changes to the website. Annette Neilson, parent, now working on the website offered-- the website's role is to be more of a facilitator, but as web poster, she needs good material to work with. Please send timely well written info with pictures (e.g., sports, academic successes. )

She also announced a new website feature – the community blog.

- Internship Program – Parent Susan Bandler provided an update on the Internship Program at SWW. Management of the program is growing and they are looking at ways to improve the program as a whole. Seniors work 6 hours per week at a designated workplace, but don't always have the guidance or follow through necessary to make the best of their experience. Improvements in the works include a partnership with Georgetown to provide a few seminars in basic office skills, such as Excel training, etc., and a mentorship program. The mentor would conduct site visits and engage students who have questions. If you are interested in helping out she encouraged parents to contact Ms. Adamo.
- International Exchange Program – Max with Flex International brings exchange students from Eurasia and works with 10 exchange students currently at SWW. He reported that they are always in need of host families for these students.