

**School Without Walls Senior High School  
Home-School Association General Meeting -- Notes**

**September 26, 2013**

1. Jean Boland, HSA President, opened the meeting at 6:35 pm and welcomed the HSA members. She noted that there would be four general HSA meetings – and more if needed. She also informed members that she is the mother of senior and that the HSA will need a new President next year.
2. Fall Appeal. Jean reported that the fundraising goal for the year is \$85,000. The HSA uses the money raised to pay for numerous school activities including Jupiter Grades, Turnitin.com, the weekly e-mail bulleting Penguin Nation, support for student activities such as Model UN, the Debate team, a group working on an electric car competition, sports teams (paying for coaches, referees, equipment, and weight training room), and support for art activities including funding artists in the classroom, accompanists for performances, and busses to the theatre. To date, \$37,170 has been raised from families representing 166 students and \$360 has been raised from 24 faculty and staff. The goal is for 100 percent participation from families at any with a suggest contribution of \$150 (although more or less is very welcome!) and a suggest contribution for faculty and staff of \$10 per person.

Class participation rates at this point are: Freshman – 41%; Sophmores – 25%; Juniors – 28%; and Seniors – 23%. To encourage participation, there will be a drawing for an iPad Mini from the class with the highest participation rate. In addition, there will be drawing for a full-size iPad from the families that contribute: for each \$150 contribution, there will be an entry placed into the drawing for that contributing family.

3. Proposed budget. Annette Nielsen presented the proposed budget to the Board (which is attached to the minutes). The budget largely mirrored the previous year's budget. The HSA has hired a bookkeeper, which is a new expense, in order to more accurately track spending. It was moved and seconded to adopt the budget as presented. The motion passes unanimously.
4. Upcoming events. Jean reported on upcoming events:
  - The SWW Family Picnic will be in Rock Creek Park in Grove 6 on October 27 from 12-4pm. Susan Shults is coordinating the picnic.
  - International Night is proposed to take place in mid-November.
5. Debate. The Debate Coach, Joan Hoyte-Hayes, made a short presentation about the Debate Team and asked parents to encourage their children to join the team.

6. Communications. Jean mentioned that the Sunday e-mail to families has been rebranded as *Penguin Nation*. Cricket Dadian is the editor of Penguin Nation. Jean then introduced freshman parent Sarah Parker who has volunteered to help the HSA better use social media channels. Sarah heads up communications at Living Social. Sarah presented to the HSA members about the strategic issues associated with the SWW website, Facebook and Twitter. Sarah has re-activated the SWW High School Facebook account and has established a Twitter account (twitter@swwhsa) and is introducing the #gopenguins for all sporting event tweets. All are encouraged to begin tweeting! Sarah discussed that the website is being redesigned but the purpose of the website is not for “real time” news feeds. Twitter is the better medium for news feeds and facebook is an excellent site for brief discussions about events that occurred and great pictures from games and such.
7. LSAT. Ed Lazere gave an update on LSAT meetings. The LSAT meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm in room 127.

- School Enrollment:
 

Freshmen	142
Sophomore	146
Junior	147
Senior	126
International	<u>23</u>
TOTAL	584

8. Task Force on Merger. The task force is meeting every other week. The main issues that the group is working through are:

- a. Governance model
- b. Budget
- c. Proper enrollment levels
- d. Should HS students receive instruction at Francis-Stevens, and if so, how should it be effectuated and what is the impact?

The task force is expected to make recommendations in a few weeks. Melissa Mehring, another parent member of the task force added that they parent representatives have tried to incorporate into the discussion the guidance that emerged from last year’s all-day meeting on the merger. She added that any parents who were interested in providing additional input were welcome to contact her. One parent asked that the task force members present the final report to the school community and then attached the school community’s reaction to the final report.

Additional discussion centered around enrollment numbers. Many believed that there was a commitment from DCPS to cap enrollment at 550. Mr. Trogisch told the group that the budget assumes enrollment of 585. For the two schools, the target enrollment is 966, while there are only 860 students currently enrolled. In response to a question on class size, Mr. Trogisch noted that over 200 sections of classes are being taught, 30 sections have no more than 27 students and that AP classes are limited to enrollment of 20.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.