

**Minutes from School Without Walls High School  
Home-School Association Executive Board Meeting**

**January 12, 2016**

1. **Melanie Gisler** called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. In attendance were executive board members Melanie Gisler, Carol Piwowarski, Jennifer Boulanger, Sue Bloom, Musarat Bozai, David Brewer, Ed Crowder, and Simone Anderson. Absent: Jason Bulluck/Taneka Parascandolo, Michael Cervino, David Kammerer, and Melody Webb. Also in attendance were: Carleton Ackerman, Lori Lee, and Tracey Weisler.
2. **Minutes.** Minutes from November 10, 2015 were approved provisionally. Members were asked to send any corrections to Jennifer Boulanger.
3. **Administration Update.** Ms. Anderson reported that:
  - The end of Term 2 is Friday January 22 and final grades must be posted by Friday January 29. GPAs will be run by the Office of Academic Programming and Support February.
  - There is a new PE teacher, Cory Parker.
  - There is an exchange with students from the Atrium School in Amersfoort, The Netherlands. SWWHS students go to The Netherlands January 30 through February 7. Dutch students will visit SWWHS March 19 through March 25. Host families are needed.
  - Junior class SAT testing will take place March 2.
  - PARCC testing will take place April 11 through April 22.
4. **LSAT Update.** Melanie Gisler reported that the LSAT has been working on a process for teachers to list international trips in a timeframe for students and parents/guardians know the range of trips that are upcoming and can make informed decisions. The LSAT will put out a call for parents to join a travel committee.
5. **Treasurer's Report.** Carol Piwowarski reported that through the end of December, the HSA has incurred \$21,936 in expenses and total income is \$49,135. Carol reported that the HSA's 2014 tax return was received by the IRS on December 9, 2015.

Funding Requests. Carol presented the following funding requests totally \$3,501:

  - \$1,051 – Model UN Conference Fee at Columbia University January 14-17, 2016
  - \$ 446 – Model UN Conference fee for North American International Model UN Conference February 11-14, 2016 and Washington Area Model UN Conference March 31-April 3, 2016
  - \$1,600 -- 2014 tax returns, Berlin Ramos (accountants)
  - \$ 3 – iContact – February charge for parking files
  - \$ 400 – GWU Melzer Center, supplies for stress management group

It was moved and seconded to approve all five request and was approved unanimously.

Teacher in Residency request. Approximately \$9,900 was requested to fund the Teacher in Residency program. Funding sources identified were \$3,000 from the Principal's discretionary fund, \$5,000 from the Summer Bridge set aside (Mr. Trogisch has other funding sources), and the remainder from other HSA funds. In the discussion, it was clear that Board members had additional questions about the nature of the commitment, the number of students who benefit from the program and the classes that use the teacher. Melanie Gisler moved to table the issue until the questions were answered. The other request for the program was for the HSA to pay the dues for the program and Melanie Gisler moved to pay the \$750 for dues. The motion was unanimously approved.

- 6. School Without Walls High School Promotional Video.** Melanie Gisler reported that she had spoken with one video producer that other schools have used. The price for a video is approximately \$2,000-2,500. Tracey Weisler noted another video producer that may be less expensive. Melanie indicated that she would look into that producer.
- 7. Fundraising.** The school auction will be April 23 and parent Ashanti Kriadena has generously agreed to chair the auction committee. Additional information will be presented at the January general membership meeting of the HSA. Additional discussion centered about the need to establish a fundraising committee in advance of next school year.
- 8. Grant Committee Update.** Tracey Weisler reported that the grant committee has had successes. The Palisades Community Fund provided \$1,000 to the robotics team and Karen Bates is working on additional grant applications for the robotics team. Additional funding needs that have been identified include: additional calculators for students to use in testing and instruments for the Music department. Discussion also centered around the need for a revolving fund for Model UN so that parents don't need to advance fund trips and registration fees.
- 9. Sports Booster's Update.** Sue Bloom reported that they have met with Kip Smith to outline ideas for next year, including establishing a data base of athletes. Sue also reported that the parents of Ultimate Frisbee players had raised \$965.
- 10. GW MOU.** David Brewer reported that he was awaiting a compliance letter from GWU with respect to the MOU.
- 11. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.