

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

February 9, 2016

1. Melanie Gisler called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm. In attendance were Executive Board members Melanie Gisler, Carol Piwowarski, Taneka Parascandalo, Ed Crowder, Associate Principal Sylvia Isaac, and Melody Webb. Absent from the meeting were Sue Bloom, Musarrat Bozai, Jennifer Boulanger, Michael Cervino, David Brewer, and David Kammerer. Also in attendance was Carleton Ackerman and Assistant Principal Simone Anderson.

2. Ms. Parascandalo reported that SWW owes approximately \$9,000 over the \$15,000 allotment for The Kennedy Center Residency program. She addressed questions raised because of the request from Mr. Trogisch to the HSA Executive Board for approximately \$9,000 in supplemental funds to cover this over-expenditure. (The HSA Board had only approved payment of the \$750 annual subscription fee to The Kennedy Center, which provides a total of \$15,000 worth of goods and/or services, including the Residency programs, for the subscription year.) Board members discussed the importance of insuring that SWW stays within the \$15,000 budget allotted to us by The Kennedy Center and does not incur cost overruns. Board members also inquired about the nature of the instruction, teacher participation, and numbers of students exposed to these Residency programs. Since the Spring semester Residency programs were already well underway and it would not be feasible to roll them back at this late date, Board members indicated they felt we should continue these programs into the Spring 2015-2016 school year without interruption in spite of the fact that SWW had exceeded the \$15,000 spending limit allocated to School Without Walls by The Kennedy Center.

- Board members requested that the Administration create a policy regarding authorization of expenditures for the Residency program. Ms. Isaac stated that this would occur.
- President Gisler expressed a sense that the HSA E Board wants in future to have a detailed accounting of the expense of the program, the income available, and the need for any supplementation for cost overages.
- President Gisler made the following motion and Treasurer Piwowarski seconded it:  
*The HSA E-Board tentatively votes to fund the overage in costs for the Kennedy Center Residency program, in the amount of \$9,000, on the condition that the SWW Administration puts in place a policy, pursuant to the above-stated concerns, which requires that Principal Trogisch shall keep the HSA Executive Board timely informed of the need for funds for any SWW program for which the Administration requests HSA support, along with detailed costs and detailed funding needs, including any overages, and requires that he does so with reasonable advance notice. The HSA Executive Board withholds authorization of funds for the aforementioned Kennedy Center Residency program until the SWW Administration establishes such policy.* The motion passed unanimously.

3. Ms. Isaac indicated the mid-year report card distribution was delayed due to adjustments to the ASPEN System. She said the Deputy Chief of Schools had been tasked to work on this. She added that student Grade Point Averages (GPAs) could not be calculated and reported to students and families due

to an investigation by DCPS. That investigation resulted from allegations of grade inflation related to problems reported with ASPEN by DCPS teachers. She said student grades have been entered in the system; however, the new grading policy is the source of this challenge. Ms. Isaac said the Walls Administration would request an update on the situation from DCPS' Superintendent David Pinder.

- Ms. Isaac indicated the Senior Project papers were not graded by GWU readers in timely fashion, hence the school did not provide grades in time for report cards. The Administration made a decision in conjunction with faculty to give the students a grade of "I" on their report cards for the Senior Project paper. However, forty students, all of whom primarily focused their Senior Projects on math and science, did receive their Senior Project grades on time.
- Ms. Isaac reviewed other items on the agenda. She announced the Black History Month program would be held on February 24, 2016, and Parent-Teacher Conferences on Monday February 22. She reported that DCPS recognized teacher James Cunningham at a recent Kennedy Center awards program, as the 2015-2016 DCPS Teacher of the Year. Finally, she indicated that the School Without Walls Administration has asked parents to remind students to arrive timely to school, before 8:45 AM. She said if the Administration sees an issue with a student's attendance, they address it with the parents.
- Ms. Isaac recognized Ms. Anderson and the faculty for their work on the school trip to the Netherlands. She also said the LSAT would hold its meeting about the budget next Wednesday.

**4.** Mr. Ackerman reported that the line item for teacher training in Advanced Placement classes will be free of cost to School Without Walls. Montgomery County and NOVA at Fairfax will pay the entire fee for the training.

**5.** Treasurer Piwowarski reported that SWW HSA has raised seventy five (75) percent of its target SY 2015-2016 budget income. Some expense items will come off, such as Summer Bridge. Treasurer Piwowarski stated she expects the HSA to meet the projected budget shortfall of \$7600, through income from the upcoming auction and usual end-of-school year donations.

**6.** President Gisler indicated that Lemon Light, Inc. would possibly produce a video that highlights the talents and resources of School Without Walls. The E-Board is looking to others who may do it for less money. The goal is to complete production by the spring. HSA has not yet spent any money on this.

**7.** Melanie Gisler reported the auction will take place on April 30, at the GWU Media Center, and the first email will circulate soon to announce it. She said that if everyone can attend, it would be a success as a community building activity, which is one of the goals of the auction.

**8.** Melody Webb, Grants Committee Co-Chair, reported that in future one of the committee's co-chairs would circulate new grant fundraising requests to the HSA E-Board for feedback, before attempting to assign it to a member of the HSA Grants Committee for assistance.

**9.** Treasurer Carol Piwowarski reported the breakdown on targeted contributions, which is on the back page of the budget, note number 3.

- The SWW Boosters have circulated an email regarding the date for the Sports Banquet, to include a maximum of 240 guests. They are looking for a special guest speaker and they may have a silent parent

auction. They will host it in the City Room at George Washington University. They provided a check to HSA Treasurer Piwowarski for the \$91 they raised through concessions at a recent sporting event. Next year, the Boosters will try to raise money from concessions.

10. President Gisler reported that SWW senior prom is June 3. The Sports Banquet is Sunday, June 5, from 5 to 7 pm, and the Ward 7/8 Party is on April 23.

11. At-large E-Board member Musarratt Bozai reported International Night will occur on March Wednesday, March 23, from 6 pm to 8 pm, potluck-style. HSA will contribute entrees.

12. President Gisler tabled until a future board meeting discussion of the Memorandum of Understanding with George Washington University. She reported that GWU said they are in compliance

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.