

**Board of Trustees Meeting
April 20, 2016 MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at: 6:05 p.m.

Members in attendance: Melanie Como-Dits, President; Lauren Cressy Dunbar; Annie Geary; David Rowley, Treasurer; Sophie White; Jennifer Williamson; Paul Worland; and Jeanne Yoder, Secretary

Staff/Faculty in attendance: Deborah Drendall, Head of School; Susan Finster, Director of Finance; Julie Gabrielse, Early Childhood Director; Amy Cousins, Events Coordinator; Becky Dennis, Elementary/Junior High Division Chair; Kyle Null, IT Director/Computer Teacher; and Kim Bosworth, Executive Assistant to the Head of School

Guests in Attendance: The Baldwin Family – Todd, Melissa, Mason and Ellie

Absent: Bill Bagatini; Mark Bland, President-Elect; Mari Linn Wise; and Ed Yang, Past President

Melanie Como-Dits called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and announced the resignation of Trustee Peter Lombardo, effective today.

Consent Agenda – including March 16, 2016 Meeting Minutes; and the April 2016 Advancement Committee Report was unanimously approved.

Head of School Report – Deborah Drendall introduced our guest, Mason Baldwin, who is currently in Ms. Kolata's and Ms. Darmogray's Lower Elementary class. Mason presented his idea for the formation of a Montessori Academy at Edison Lakes High School. He highlighted the following ideas then answered questions of the trustees:

- Because of lack of space, we could build a 2nd story to the existing elementary/junior high building.
- Families and community members could "sponsor a stair" to raise funds.
- Could start with just a 9th grade, then as those students progress, open further grades accordingly.
- *"Wouldn't it be wonderful if students could just stay at Montessori and then go straight on to college?"*

Congratulations to Mason on being a visionary for our school and presenting such innovative ideas!

Deborah Drendall then reviewed a written report highlighting the following:

- 2016-2017 Enrollment
 - Current Enrollment is at 134 – last year at this time enrollment was at 112
 - Additional details were requested prior to the meeting and emailed to all members, including:
 - Total Outstanding Contracts for Current Students: 106
 - Total Outstanding Contracts for New Students: 11
 - Of those 117, 38 are working with the Finance office.
 - Of the 106 (current students), 13 have officially confirmed they are not returning for various reasons – moving out of the area, attending public school or other Montessori school
 - Re-enrollment reminders have been on FaceBook and in the Weekly Memo. Teachers have been notified and are connecting with families who have not reenrolled from their class.
- Development: Windfall
 - See below from Melanie Como-Dits
- Rock the Earth Sock Hop
- 2015-2016 Terra Nova Scores
- Teacher Inservice
 - Included Accreditation Report writing by all staff/faculty members
- Daily News
 - K/LE/UE Parent Breakfasts
 - Cultural Presentations
 - Fine Arts Night
 - Spring Book Fair

Melanie Como-Dits reviewed a written report highlighting this year's Windfall results:

- Open bar was positive and cost-effective.
- Knollwood is great to work with.
- Power Ball brought in an additional \$2500 for the night.
- Super Silent Auction was a success in many ways, but still had some bumps to work out.
- Windfall Strategic Committee was the first of its kind and they were wonderful contributors.
- Consignment items were successful.
- Sponsorship was up this year.
- Recommendation was made to look into a different cell bidding company for future events. Gesture's (f/k/a ABC) registration and bidding is a bit cumbersome and they are becoming more expensive.
- Wine was not initially placed on each table as requested, but can easily be looked after more closely in coming years.
- Recommendation was made to implement a Class Project "approval process" to help steer and direct class projects. Also for consideration would be to implement a reasonable, small budget for class projects.
- Also included in Melanie's report were chart summaries and a spreadsheet comparing multiple years.

Annie Geary reported on Fundraising ideas that came from the recent Advancement meeting. As reported in the Advancement Report, Fall Frolic will not take place in 2016. Thus we need to come up with other ideas to raise the budgeted \$10,000.

- Mr. Null gave a presentation on ESports and a League of Legends gaming tournament as one idea.
- Dancing with Our Stars
- Paper shredding day – Melanie Como-Dits is attending two paper shredding events this weekend to check them out and will report back.
- Lucky Ball

Announcements – n/a

Motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned to Closed Session at: 7:20 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 18th, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Kim Bosworth, Executive Assistant to the Head of School