

## Upper School Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 19, 2019

12:00pm

Attendees: Jelena Stewart, Cynthia McFerrin, Jennifer Tero, Kristy Andrew, Kathleen Jones, Alma Arredondo, Holly Ryan, Toni Parchuri, Jen Sharpe, Whitney Heldebrand, Sarah Stewart, Lisa Tucker, Melissa Siemens, Beth Goddard, Lynn Goldberg, Zahidah Khan, Annatina Aaronson, Tanya Shaw, Franchell Abdalla, Kristen Hook, Katie Arens, Patty Lawson

Welcome and Introduction – Katie Arens, Upper School Parents Association VP

### **Frances Fondren-Bales**

Ms. Fondren-Bales gave an Upper School update that included many facets of the school culture and days:

- Advisory Teams have formed and meetings being held on A days. Some students have been trained as facilitators to lead these meetings.
- The administration has settled on skirt length to be approximately 3 inches above the knee. They have educated faculty as how they are to address appropriately if an issue arises.
- She discussed how they are proud of the fact the students feel comfortable to be a place where students can question. They are forming a committee to discuss any future changes with uniform code that will include alumni, students, and faculty.
- She reminded that Experiential Learning is next week. Freshman go on Freshman O, Sophomores go to St. Crispin's, Juniors have the option of college visits, and Seniors can continue to work on college applications or go on visits.
- She reminded us that Homecoming is October 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Michael Berglund and Whitney Udwin**

The new deans introduced themselves also discussed the culture of the Upper School which included the following:

- They are encouraging student voice.
- They reiterated positivity that came from the skirt length issues.
- They are focusing on 4 main areas: Food, Phones, Tardiness, Dresscode.
- They are trying to be clear, consistent, and fair in regard to violations and discipline issues.
- They also discussed the Diversity and Inclusivity Council that is student led and had training for these leaders.
- They addressed Honor Council and how they are focused on “restorative justice” and to have appropriate consequences.
- They explained that all students are required to participate in at least 1 club. All clubs are to have a Community Service component and have goals and benchmarks.

## Justin Butler

Justin Butler gave an Admissions update:

- They are still focused on having Parent Ambassadors and the use of social media. They are trying to have consistent messages.
- He referred to the Road Map to Success that is on the website.
- He identified that they have restructured the Buddy Family program.
- He said that they school had 95% retention from last year to this year, with 100% of the incoming Freshmen class returning, which they are unaware of ever happening. Current enrollment is right at 1,000.
- He emphasized they are always willing to give tours.
- They first Parent Ambassador meeting is September 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 in the Self Conference Room in the Tandy.
- To be a Parent Ambassador, go to website “Parents-Volunteers” to sign up to be an ambassador.

## Leslie Kelly

Leslie Kelly, CFO, emphasized for us to read through the Parent Handbook. She explained that if we come across a situation where we think “should I say something the answer is always YES. She also reminded us about completing the process of “Keeping Track” for getting background checked and obtaining card identification to expedite check in process.

## Steve Dyer

Steve Dyer, WAC director, discussed the upcoming spring ISAS Festival that Holland Hall is hosting. It’s a huge event that spans a few days and requires thousands of volunteer hours. There are many options for shifts.

## Cynthia McFerrin

Cynthia announced that the Auction last spring raised over \$300,000. There are still some Sign-Up Parties available for participation and can be viewed on the website.

Next Meeting – Thursday, October 24th at noon

# Important dates

## September

September 24<sup>th</sup>  
September 26<sup>th</sup> – October 1<sup>st</sup>

*Tulsa Term Information Session  
US Experiential Learning*

## October

October 1<sup>st</sup>  
October 1<sup>st</sup>  
October 2<sup>nd</sup>  
October 5<sup>th</sup>  
October 7<sup>th</sup>

*Senior Yearbook Photo Deadline  
Senior yearbook Ad Contract Deadline  
All School Picture Retakes  
US Homecoming Dance  
Senior Application Night*

October 7<sup>th</sup>  
Aid Night  
October 10<sup>th</sup>  
October 14<sup>th</sup>  
October 16<sup>th</sup>  
October 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>  
October 21<sup>st</sup>  
October 21 – November 21<sup>st</sup>  
October 23<sup>rd</sup>  
October 24<sup>th</sup>  
October 29<sup>th</sup>  
October 30<sup>th</sup>

Senior Parent Meeting and College Financial

Upper School Club Picture Day  
11 Grade Parents College Night  
12 Grade Career Day  
Fall Break – No Classes  
College FASFA Workshop  
ART Works Exhibit, Holliman Gallery  
Welcome Wednesday  
US PA Council Meeting  
Fall Teacher Luncheon  
MS/US Shadow Day

## **November**

November 7<sup>th</sup>  
November 8<sup>th</sup>  
November 6<sup>th</sup>  
November 13<sup>th</sup>  
November 14<sup>th</sup>  
November 20<sup>th</sup>  
November 21<sup>st</sup>  
November 26<sup>th</sup>

All School Evening Parent Conferences  
All School Parent Conferences  
Welcome Wednesday  
Welcome Wednesday  
US PA Council Meeting  
Welcome Wednesday  
US Choir/Dance/ Show choir  
Grandparents & Special Friends Day  
Thanksgiving Break begins at Noon for PreK-

Grade 12

## **December**

December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
December 4<sup>th</sup>  
December 8<sup>th</sup>  
December 10<sup>th</sup>  
December 11<sup>th</sup>  
December 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>  
December 12<sup>th</sup>  
December 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>st</sup>  
December 21<sup>st</sup>

School Resumes  
Holland Hall Sings at Holy Trinity  
Shadow Day  
Lessons and Carols Trinity Episcopal  
MS/US Band Concert  
Upper School Theatre Night  
US Dead Days  
MS/US Orchestra Night  
Final Exams for Grades 9-12  
Winter Break begins at Noon for PreK-Grade  
8 and after Final Exams for Grades 9-12

## **January**

January 7<sup>th</sup>

School Resumes

**\*\*\*ISAS Festival - April 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>\*\*\***