

Tandem Parent Association Meeting February 2, 2006

Our meeting began with a moment of silence followed by introductions around the room.

Announcements: Edith, Parent Association President, told us that ten-twelve upper school students were just leaving for a Quaker Youth Leadership conference at Sandy Spring Friends School in Maryland.

Edith also let us know that Guinevere Higgins would love help organizing, food, refreshments, and places to stay for Quaker teachers attending the Environmental Conference May 11th and 12th.

The minutes from the January Parent Association meeting were approved. Current minutes are posted on the Tandem website. Past months' minutes are archived by Maria Morrell, Webmaster.

Treasurer's Report: Virginia Knight said there was not a lot of activity since our January meeting. Partisans now have an account because of income from the winter concert. Second quarter lunch program has ended. The wish list funds available now total \$4,355.08. The Finance Committee will meet towards the end of February. Teachers are encouraged to get their proposals in for wish list funding requests. Virginia reiterated that all proposals need to be detailed and an exact money total requested is needed. Money is no longer needed from the PA for digital equipment. Teachers currently have three weeks to work on any proposals. Anyone wanting to help teachers with this is welcome. The Treasurer's report was approved.

The Parent Association agreed with the Treasurer's proposal that we use recyclable paper instead of Styrofoam for soup on Wednesdays for school lunch. This will cost us \$80 more per lunch quarter.

Development Office: Patrice Kyger asked that we all make certain that any donation to Tandem go through the Development Office, so it can be properly acknowledged. We also don't want to jeopardize Tandem's 501c3 status. Paul told us that there is new legislation to deter fraud that nonprofits must adhere to. Tandem can expect to come under additional IRS scrutiny in the future as all nonprofits will.

Spring Fundraiser: Barb Bousquet updated us on the March 4 Cabaret family fundraiser. "The spring fundraising committee has used less than \$2,000 of the \$7,000 in seed money allotted for this year's Cabaret! including caterer, invitations and printing, entertainment, decorations and paper goods. This will leave an excess of \$5,000 for next year's John Howard Fund spring fundraiser."

Barb expects to break even on ticket sales. Profits hopefully totaling at least \$10,000 for the John Howard Teacher Enrichment Fund will come from the silent auction of donated time at vacation houses. Invitations will go out ASAP.

Teachers, staff, and vacation home donors will receive 2 free tickets with their invites. Parents will need to make finger food desserts. Please contact Linda Kobert to offer help. We want this event to feel like a celebration .

The Cabaret Committee will meet Wed, Feb. 8th from 2-4 in the Community Hall.

Building and Grounds: JoAnn Dalley reported on the Board's ongoing review of the 2003 Strategic Plan. She reported on how well we have achieved the goal of providing the best use of existing structures. Each classroom, office, and work space are used almost to full capacity. A great deal of physical upkeep has taken place on the Main Building with more to come. A much larger teacher's lounge is still desired.

Thought has been given to constructing a new Middle School building that is developmentally more appropriate than the current Middle School building. The old building would be used for offices, etc. A big question is exactly where the building would be constructed.

The goal of increasing the size of the Field House has not been attained, but with the switch of the music and weight rooms, the space is being better utilized. Storage lockers for the students are to be built in the locker rooms. More gym space is sorely needed. A third playing field would be ideal. It is quite possible that one floor in the new Middle School Building would be additional gym space and a satellite library.

JoAnn emphasized that we are at our student capacity and really need more space under roof. The ultimate question is what will serve our needs best? She queried this of the teachers and asked those present at the meeting to brainstorm, too.

Paul canvassed the group present on what habits and practices we should value in the 21st century. This was a question posed to all VAIS heads. The answers were very thought provoking and worthy of discussion.

Linda Kobert reported that there is a Service Learning Committee that meets on a regular basis to evaluate programs at Tandem. Edith was going to meet with the group and report on who it consists of.

This ended the business portion of our meeting.

Lena Lewis, 9th grade Biology teacher at Tandem, entertained and educated us with stories of her adventure to the Hudson Bay coast of Canada as a volunteer with Earth Watch. Her travels were funded from the John Howard Teacher Enrichment Fund. She chose this summer work of ten days of collecting field data because she felt that after nine years of classroom teaching, she really wanted to get back in touch with the 'real world' science part of her knowledge. A variety of different kinds of scientists gathered at a research center at the mouth of the Churchill River to collect data to use as a baseline for how the ecosystem is being affected by global warming.

Lena said it was exciting to sit at dinner and listen to the various scientists talk about the raw data they had collected that day. Her time spent in the lab on this trip made her realize how relevant her lab teaching is to her current students. It also made her appreciate how many people hours go into even the smallest discovery. Lena reported that her experience reenergized her as a teacher and made her very much appreciate how much time she spends on real teaching at Tandem. We were grateful to her for making real to us how wonderful it is to raise money for the John Howard Fund to be used for our teachers.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Rinehart