

Tandem Parent Association Meeting September 8, 2005

Tandem Parent Association President, Edith McHenry, welcomed a large and enthusiastic group of parents to our first meeting of the 2005-2006 school year. As is Tandem tradition, we shared a moment of silence before beginning business.

Head of School, Paul Perkinson, welcomed old and new faces to the meeting. He emphasized how important parental input is to the success of Tandem Friends School. Paul told us that the Friday letter is the primary form of weekly communication. Anything to be included in it should be emailed to Tom or Nura by noon on Thursday with the subject heading, "For Friday Letter." The letter can be read on the website with a few hard copies available in the front office.

This school year has gotten off to a fabulous start. Individually, Paul said if your start has not been so fabulous, do not feel alone and feel free to ask for help.

Announcements: Tandem parent, Parry Merkley, presented two fundraising ideas. The first involved Whole Foods. Plastic gift cards to Whole Foods could be sold to TFS at a 5% discount and then resold to parents and friends at full face value. The gift card amounts would probably be \$100, \$50, and \$25.

The second possible fundraiser would involve the Exxon Market at Mill Creek. For every \$5.00 gift certificate sold and earmarked 'Tandem', our school would receive \$0.25. They are not willing to give change back which could be a problem. Smaller certificate denominations or a running tab may be solutions. Parry has not yet negotiated a deal with the Mudhouse at this time. The above fundraising ideas present no cost to Tandem. It is still to be determined where the funds raised will be used. Parry welcomes any ideas on how to administer these possibilities and is working with Jean in the development office.

Director of Development, Jean Dunnington, reminded us that Tandem's 35th anniversary will be celebrated the weekend of October 22nd and will include all alumni and current families. On October 21, alumni are invited to participate in Blue Ridge Day with an informal evening event including dinner, story telling and history sharing. John Howard, who was a founder of Tandem and Roz Berne, past head of school during Tandem's change to a Friend's school, will both be attending. Starting at noon on Saturday, everyone is invited to the soccer and field hockey games taking place and a dinner with musicians that evening. Expect formal invitations in the mail. Sign up to help out.

Badger Spirit is raising money through the sale of concessions during sporting events. Monies raised will go toward building lockers in the locker rooms. Jean is getting bids and is open to ideas.

The minutes from the May Parent Association meeting were approved.

Edith gave us an explanation about Quaker consensus which we follow in our meetings. Rather than voting with majority rules, we talk and try to come to a general sense that everyone is comfortable agreeing.

Treasurer's Report: Our Treasurer, Virginia Knight, handed out the 2004-05 year in review report and a proposed budget for 2005-06. Total PA funds as of July 2005 are \$11,213.41. After subtracting already allocated funds and proposed expenses for this school year from that total, there remains a balance of \$1,321.13 which is available for this quarter's wish list. Standard procedure is for all monies to be dispersed as the PA is a not for profit effort. Virginia will let the Tandem teachers know of these available funds and a request list will be formed. Virginia told us that Finance Committee meetings are open to all and are scheduled for one week prior to our first Thursday of each month PA meetings.

Edith asked for a consensus on the approval of the budget which was reached. Allocation of money will move ahead.

Tag Sale: Margaret Maupin asked for donations and help for the October 1 and 2 Tag sale. Donations may be brought to the PA shed at the end of the parking lot. Some household items will probably be given away to hurricane victims relocating in this area. Help is needed every Friday and Saturday; it's a great way to meet new people. The best days to donate are Sept. 23, 24, and 25 so there is time to sort and price, but not too long of a storage time.

Volunteer Coordinator: This PA position remains vacant. Anne Brune, past volunteer coordinator, describes this role as a person who matches volunteers to needs. Anne is very available to help train anyone interested. It is important to fill in the volunteer sheet that was sent out in a mailing before school started.

Lunch Program: Liz Hanson announced that lunch forms are due in now with payment.

Parent Education: Liz Hanson plans to include a section of parent education at the conclusion of our monthly PA meetings. She would like some help on choosing topics for discussion, issues that need resolving, and any community connections to an educator on our chosen topics.

pARTisans: Peggy Shaker described pArtisans as a group that supports the arts at Tandem. Last year's support focused on the music program. More parents are wanted and ideas are very welcome.

Middle School Division Representative: Mindy Barber said improved communication within the middle school is a goal this year. Class get togethers with Tom, either all parent or parent/student throughout the year are a possibility. She would like input on what time of day a meeting like this would work. Middle school class reps should ask this of their parents and get back to either Mindy or Lucia Morse.

Spring Fundraiser: Barb Bousquet heads this committee which has a goal of raising \$10,000 annually for the John Howard Teacher Enrichment Fund. This year's fundraiser will be a cabaret held on March 4th in the Community Center. Performers and any kind of help are wanted. The first organizational meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 9th from 2:00-5:00. Come when you can.

PA Newsletter: Edith explained that the PA plans to put out a newsletter each quarter with articles, stories, etc written by parents and students. The newsletter effort needs a coordinator.

RideShare: Linda Kobert has forms for anyone interested in carpooling. Ride Share will match people's needs according to their information.

Our meeting adjourned and we took time to meet and mingle and ask questions.

David Slezak dashed in after teaching his first period class to ask for help with Wednesday pancake breakfasts and to tell us about the Quakerism 101 classes being held Oct. 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 7:30-8:30 in the Blue Room. Contact David at Tandem if you are interested in attending.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Rinehart
Parent Association Secretary