



Minutes of the Webb Parents Association (WPA)

Meeting Held Saturday May 22, 2010

Family Members in Attendance:

Vincent and Angela Del Gatto
Ray and Carol Drollinger
Kevin and Debra Hagan
George and Tania Mouravieff
Ginger Pfeifer
Don and Amrita Willemann

Keith and Katherine Dixon
Richard and Marylou Ferrieri
Scott Jacobson
Peter and Kathi Needham
Joe and Julie Soja

Webb Institute Representatives:

Holly LeMoine
Admiral Olsen

Geoff Whitely

Student Representatives:

Kyle Manis

Brent Morrison

Facilitator:

Keith Dixon

Discussion:

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM by Keith Dixon, President of the Webb Parents Association. He welcomed those in attendance on behalf of Admiral Olsen, thanking those family members present for the support given to Webb, its mission and vision. Keith introduced the WPA officers present: Vice President Ginger Pfeifer, Treasurer Angela Del Gatto, Secretary Marylou Ferrieri, and Alumni-Parent Liaison Carol Drollinger. Once again, Keith briefly outlined the historical genesis of the Webb Parents Association. Emphasizing that this organization is just a little over a year old, Keith shed some light on its role in assisting the Institute with fundraising and undertaking special projects of interest to the school and the student body.
2. Special thanks were extended to Kyle Manis'12 for his service to the WPA over the past year, and Brent Morrison'11 was welcomed into service as the WPA Student Representative. Kyle has been elected to serve as the Webb Student Organization President during the upcoming academic year. Both Kyle and Brent were congratulated on their positions and wished much success in the coming year.
3. Marylou Ferrieri, Secretary of the WPA, presented the minutes of the September 19, 2009 meeting of the Webb Parents Association. Hard copies of the minutes were

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distributed for review. Since this is an emerging organization, Marylou explained that the September meeting served to document the WPA's progress in becoming an up and running body. In the interest of the organization embracing specific, accomplishable projects, discussion of item #5 regarding the Needs Committee—i.e. the renovation of the Freshman Dining area—was slated to be addressed as a separate agenda item later in the meeting. Motion for acceptance of the minutes as prepared was made by Richard Ferrieri and seconded by Don Willemann. Minutes were accepted as presented without further discussion.

4. Don Willemann updated the status of the WPA Yahoo site. Noting that membership for the site has increased over the past six months, Don explained the sign up process and emphasized the importance of the site as means not only for information and resource sharing, but also for participation and awareness of the WPA. He again encouraged anyone who had not yet joined to do so. To facilitate parent-institute contact, Don has been working with Keisha Brown to create a parents' portal on the school's website. They anticipate its launch by early Fall 2010.
5. As noted earlier in these minutes, the Needs Committee of the WPA has targeted a specific, accomplishable project to be undertaken as the organization's first "task." A series of discussions with Admiral Olsen, David Guernsey (former Director of Development at Webb), and Bill Murray as well as a query of the student body undertaken in the Spring of 2009 helped to focus the Needs Committee on an assessment of necessary improvements to the Freshman Dining Area.
6. Keith Dixon acknowledged the key role of Mike Abbruscato P'11, who generously donated his time and talents to generate a "shopping list" of materials as well as a detailed cost analysis that would guide the WPA in this undertaking. Keith Dixon then presented information that Mike had shared earlier during the WPA Executive Session. Items targeted for replacement as well as an itemized price list of materials to make the renovation a reality include wainscoting, an exterior entrance door, lighting, and cosmetic repair to walls/painting. Geoff Whitely discussed the notion of creating the aesthetics that would complement the rest of the building at the pricing that had been determined, emphasizing that project as envisioned was indeed "accomplishable" by the staff he has available. Geoff stated that his crew has committed to the project and would like to carry it out over the summer of 2010 provided funding could be secured.
7. In discussion, it was acknowledged that this is indeed a project that the WPA wishes to embrace. Kyle Manis and Brent Morrison each reiterated that this is an issue that would address "building morale" which is indeed a desirable thing for maintaining a sense of community. Geoff Whitely spoke for the Webb administration to reaffirm that this project is something that the school wishes to be carried out.
8. The question of fundraising for the project was then addressed and discussion ensued. Mike Abbruscato's cost analysis had targeted a total amount of \$10,000. While Vincent Del Gatto expressed strong reservation that the project could be brought to fruition for that amount, Geoff Whitely supported the pricing as an accurate target figure. Discussion resumed to pinpoint the most effective means of fundraising. Ginger Pfeifer suggested that if each Webb "family" contributed \$100,

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we would easily reach a \$10,000 goal. The notion of contacting each Webb family through a personal letter was considered, and in conversation, the idea of equating a gift to Webb with the cost of a family dinner at a restaurant appeared to be a key idea to inspire families to connect with the project. Marylou Ferrieri and Brent Morrison had created a flyer to include with the letter to convey a visual of the WPA's intent to bring the Freshman Dining area in line with the Main Dining Room. Vincent Del Gatto felt that the visual was a "misrepresentation" of our intent, and it was decided to send out only a letter as the first step in fundraising. It was also suggested that phone calls be considered as a follow up to the letter in order to secure the necessary funding. Marylou Ferrieri agreed to chair the fundraising effort, and Holly LeMoine, Director of Development, was enlisted to help in the creation of a letter that addressed the need and the mission of this project.

9. Additional suggestions included a "Split the Pot" at Family Weekend in the fall and perhaps a raffle table –dinner certificate to a local high end restaurant—might enhance our efforts and bring in some additional funding. Holly advised that permits may need to be secured from the City of Glen Cove in order to be in compliance with New York State as well as local laws governing raffles; and she offered to further investigate.
10. Motion to adjourn was offered by Kevin and Debra Hagan at 4:05 PM, seconded by Don Willemann and Katherine Dixon, unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted by Marylou Ferrieri