

From: "dixon2kh11" <dixon2kh11@yahoo.com>  
Subject: Welcome, Webb Parents!

Thanks to all who attended the initial parent involvement meeting during Webb Family Weekend. Listed below are notes from Saturday's meeting.

**Webb Institute**  
**Parent Involvement Meeting**  
**September 20, 2008**

Fifty-three parents of Webb students attended the meeting to discuss the formation of a parent association for Webb Institute. Keith Dixon facilitated the meeting with input from Bill Murray, Director of Enrollment Management, and numerous parents in attendance.

***The following items were discussed:***

*Structure of the Committee:* It was suggested that, initially, a listserv be created and parent contact information be posted in this database. A discussion board for sharing information pertaining to Webb programs and topics of interest to parents can then be formed. Don Willemann P'10 volunteered to expand upon and update the database he had begun to create last spring. He offered to serve as moderator for a Yahoo-based site.

*Goals of the Committee:* Long-range and short-term goals were suggested. These include:

- Foster improved communications between Webb and parents. Utilize the parents section on the newly-created Webb website.
- Post/share information pertaining to Winter Work, i.e., accommodations, transportation, shopping, restaurants, medical facilities in the area.
- Serve as a local contact/resource for students serving Winter Work terms in the area.
- Post/share information pertinent to college year (freshman-senior).
- Post/share information pertaining to graduation.
- Identify high schools with strong academic programs for the purpose of recruitment of students.
- Attend high school College Nights to distribute material and recruit potential students.
- Host a parent-to-parent information session for parents of prospective students during Open House.
- Fundraising for needs identified by the school and for a "wish list" of student needs.
- Research successful parent association programs at other schools to serve as models. James Lum P'12 will contact the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point to glean information about their parent association.
- Create a summer program for high school students at Webb.
- Extend parent association membership to include participation of parents of alumni.

*Additional Discussion:* It was suggested that the parent association goals take a dual approach with goals for parent involvement from parents living close by and parents far away. One parent cautioned that we maintain checks and balances to guard against doing too much for students, instead allowing them to do things for themselves thus providing them the opportunity to grow. She also cautioned against allowing the parent organization to become a "fundraising machine."

Also discussed were the number of meetings to be held yearly and possible meeting locations.

Keith Dixon called for volunteers to meet to determine how to structure the parent organization and to determine a plan for realizing the stated goals. The following parents volunteered their assistance:

Michael Abbruscato	P'11
Diana Boltz	P'12
Keith & Kathy Dixon	P'11
Ray & Carol Drollinger	P'09
Rich & Marylou Fierrieri	P'11
Paul & Carolyn Fleming	P'12
Caroline Griffin	P'11
Steve Guglielmoni	P'12
Kevin Hagan	P'12
James Lum	P'12
George Mouravieff	P'9 & `11
Ginger Pfeifer	P'11
Jim Stewart	P'11
Richard Walker	P'12
Don Willemann & Amrita Dhawan	P'10