

PA minutes 4-1-09

Jayne welcomed everyone and then John Peterman updated the meeting with admissions and placement information. As of the meeting there was a 96% re-enrollment from current families; for families still considering Brookwood the revisit day is 4/2 and deadline for enrollment is 4/10. This year's 8th grade had remarkable acceptances at secondary schools. This is the largest class Brookwood has ever had (over 50). This year approximately 7 students will go on to public high schools with Manchester-Essex Regional being the most popular followed by Hamilton/Wenham Regional, Masconomet and Beverly. Our 8th graders had a high acceptance rate as day students at Pingree, Brooks, and Governors' Academy. There were 10 applicants to Andover with 7 accepted, at Groton and Concord Academy there were 6 applicants with 4 accepted, 5 of 8 applicants were accepted at Middlesex, 6 of 12 at Exeter. All boys who applied to St. Johns Prep were accepted. Applications to secondary schools were higher this year than ever before – Andover had highest # of applicants in their history. In light of this, next fall there will be a coffee for parents of all age students about process for students looking at boarding schools and what Brookwood does for students and parents in the process.

Jayne introduced Nurse Paula to preview the painting she created and is donating to the auction. The original will be framed and lithographs will be made available for purchase.

Barb DiGiuseppe gave an update from admissions. Revisit day is scheduled for 4/2 and then we will enter a "rolling admissions" season where we continue to screen and accept applicants to be put on the waitlist if space becomes available. Admissions Tours co-chair Shannon Cabot thanked everyone who helped with tours, open houses, etc. and introduced Elizabeth Massey and Kim Guerster as next years admissions co-chairs and thanked Stori Cadigan and Kim Cutler for their work over the last 3 years.

Jen Cunningham introduced the Pan Mass Challenge for Kids that will be hosted at Brookwood this spring. The Brookwood connection to Dana Farber (the beneficiary of funds raised from PMC rides) started in 2005 when the 7th grade handbell choir went there to perform a concert in December. Jen has ridden the PMC for 13 years and is bringing the kids' version to Brookwood. PMC Kids rides started in 1998 and last year there were 26 kids' rides statewide. The Brookwood event will be May 16th. Registration is through the PMC website (and a link is available on the Brookwood website). 7th and 8th graders will be able to volunteer as marshals to help (party at end, help on route, assist younger kids, etc.) There will be lots of activities throughout the day. Routes will be varied for different ages.

Valerie Vitale and Julie Riordan updated the meeting on the Faculty Grants awarded by the PA this year. There were 9 applicants looking for over \$20K. The annual budget of 10K allowed funding for 6 applicants. The committee was impressed with the applications and their commitment to global awareness and community service. Jayne noted that the PA Faculty Wish-list will also be awarded later this spring.

Parent Ed co-chairs Lori Bassinger and Sharon Manuel reported they have secured two great speakers for the spring. Ned Hallowell, a nationally recognized child psychologist who was on the Brookwood faculty several years ago will come in April. Joanie Geltman will come back to Brookwood after her popular fall visit. Geltman is a parenting coach and therapist who gives common sense advice for parents of teen, preteen age group and will return to Brookwood on May 20th. There was some discussion of opening these speakers to the public but parents had mixed opinions. It is a nice way to invite new families to see the school but it is also a nice opportunity for current parents to have an intimate environment in which to ask questions of the speaker.

The newly formed PA Sustainability Committee will meet Monday April 6th at 8:30am and again on May 4th. Brookwood has Board of Trustees committee on sustainability, the PA committee and a faculty coordinator and the spring meetings of the PA group will have discussion of projects for year upcoming as well as the 3rd Sustainability Fair in October.

Auction Update: Over 120 people were helping out on the auction in some way shape or form in the last few weeks before the event. Faculty/staff and families have really stepped up to the plate with a variety of items/ideas/time with fantastic opportunities to be bid upon. The students put a lot of effort in, too; creating the beautiful pieces from each class. A few companies have also approached us with donations. The goal for the event is to make everyone feel welcome and the hope is for a high attendance. Auction Chair Trisha Castraberti asked for input on using biodegradable plates/cups/napkins versus rented china, a switch that would save money as well as is better for the environment, and the meeting strongly agreed that biodegradable serve-ware was the way to go. Jayne encouraged everyone to spread the word to check out the auction website to preview items and encourage other friends to attend.

The meeting concluded and Jayne asked for class ambassadors to stay after for a brief meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Faith Emerson