

PACA Connect Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2023
8:00 AM, Fireside Dining Room

- I. Welcome and Introductions
 - A. Gaby May, President
 - B. Ellie Merritt-Zeiger, Vice-President
 - C. Introduction of Executive Board members
- II. PACA's Vision and Theme for the 2023-2024 school year
 - A. Our goal is to continue to build a strong community, make meaningful connections, and build kind relationships
 - B. The Executive Board aims to be present and accessible
- III. Welcome back message from Melissa Soderberg
 - A. "The Raincoat" by Ada Limon, Poet Laureate of the United States
 - 1. Components of flourishing: gratitude and empathy; these can be accomplished through good literature
 - B. The Human Flourishing Program out of Harvard University's Institute for Quantitative Social Science is guiding the faculty's work for the year
 - 1. Definition of Flourishing:
 - a) Happiness and life satisfaction
 - b) Mental and physical health
 - c) Close social relationships
 - d) Sense of meaning and purpose
 - e) Good character and virtue
 - 2. CA has the highest Flourishing score the researchers have seen
 - 3. The longer a student has been at CA, the higher the Flourishing score
 - 4. CA has strong emphasis on organized sports, humor, acts of kindness, wonder, connecting with nature to encourage Flourishing
 - 5. What could CA do better to encourage more Flourishing according to students?
 - a) Ideas were given around all 5 pillars of Flourishing
 - 6. Sense of belonging and seeing the good in others predicts Flourishing
- IV. Introduction to Melissa Clarke Beckett as our new Director of Parent Relations
 - A. Philosophy for the year is patience, flexibility, and learning
 - B. Things are new and different this year
 - C. Volunteers should have fun and feel supported
 - D. It's going to be a great year!
- V. Committees/Affinity Groups Presentations
 - A. Charlie David Dinner–Jann Parish

1. Thank you to those who volunteered this year. It was a great success!
 2. Work is done over the summer since it kicks off the year, but work will begin in the spring
 3. Great way to meet people
- B. Book Fair–Jennifer Webb
1. Towards end of October
 2. Looking for volunteers
 3. Raises money for great causes
- C. Clothing Closet–Jennifer Webb
1. Signup Genius will be going out for volunteers
- D. Lower School Carnival–Crystal Kahwash
1. Great fun for kids!
 2. Last day of school
 3. Event for all LS students
 4. Inflatables, activities, games, etc.
 5. US Service Board also puts on activities, such as face painting, etc.
 6. Starts with a small committee, but volunteers are really needed on the day of
- E. Faculty Appreciation–Michelle Singh
1. Committee is a lot of fun
 2. Events include breakfasts, conference survival kits, Sweet Celebration in December, Teacher Appreciation Week
 3. Have five people now, but looking for more volunteers
- F. Service–Kimberly Allison and Ria Forchione
1. Kids 4 Kids is coming soon in October! School-wide service learning project
 2. Please come back to the October PACA meeting to hear more about Kids 4 Kids and how to get involved
- G. Viking Corner–Ginny Schlonsky
1. Spiritwear store open on Wednesdays 7:45-3:45
 2. Great way to volunteer on a more consistent basis (2-hour shifts)
 3. Signup Genius for volunteers
- H. MOSAIC–Theresa Ankamah
1. Supporting students of African descent
 2. MOSAIC Mingle on August 26
 3. Biggest event is Black History Month in February open to the whole school
 4. Social event for parents
 5. Celebrating seniors on May 5
 6. Open to volunteers to help coordinate events

- I. ¡HOLA!–Patricia Lucas and Susana Bronner
 - 1. Hispanic Heritage Month begins September 15
 - 2. Looking for volunteers to help coordinate events
 - 3. Tailgate on September 23 after Viking Rampage (around 10:00 AM), coordinating with Girls Varsity Soccer
 - 4. Salsa dancing and party on September 30
 - 5. Multiple other activities for LS, MS, and US throughout the month
 - 6. Spring activity–cooking for Faith Mission
 - 7. Celebrate seniors at the end of the year
 - 8. Celebrate new families coming to CA
 - 9. Thank you for providing cookies for today’s meeting to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month!
- J. CAPSA–Kamy Bhalla, Ritu Bakhru
 - 1. Events include welcome event (this Sunday); Diwali presentations to LS, MS, and US; hoping to do an event with cricket this year; Holi school-wide color event with games, etc.
 - 2. Smaller committees within the affinity group–would love more volunteers for these
- K. CPA–Renee Wang
 - 1. Had a summer picnic to welcome new families and reunite with others
 - 2. Planning a tailgate to share traditions/culture–schoolwide
 - 3. Chinese New Year Festival is largest event for whole school with decorations and presentations
 - 4. Would love any families to join
- L. SEED–Joyce Simson, Jan Anasis
 - 1. Different kind of affinity group
 - 2. Not looking for volunteers, rather it is a confidential, voluntary discussion group for equity and diversity
 - 3. Meets 7 times over the year, once a month–next meeting is next week–all are welcome
 - 4. Part of National SEED Project
- VI. Announcements
 - A. Thank you and acknowledgement of Charlie David Co-chairs, Jann Parish and Hilary Griffith–more than 1100 tickets sold and doubled the number of sponsorships!
 - B. There is an online volunteer form or QR code on information card to learn more about PACA and get involved
- VII. Volunteer Sign-up Fair