

**ISC Meeting Minutes  
September 20, 2011  
The Academy Building**

**Attendance:** Available upon request from the ISC secretary.

**Welcome:** Co-President Rita Kotler welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**New Business:**

- Rita Kotler announced that, after this year, Barbara Clark is stepping down as ISC Art Show Coordinator. The ISC is seeking a replacement. The bulk of the work takes place from January 21-January 28 and it is hoped that the new coordinator will be able to start this year in order to observe and help Barbara.
- Ken Ginsberg will be speaking at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church on Sunday September 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00.
- Parenting on the Main Line is a parenting series that is co-sponsored by the Middleton Center and Main Line Reform Temple. The first presentation, "Positive Parenting," will be held on October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 at Main Line Reform Temple.

**Presentation by School Superintendent, Dr. Christopher McGinley:**

Dr. McGinley discussed the steps being taken to create curriculum alignment. The new Reading Resource system allows teachers to use the program in a way that best fits his/her particular group of students in any given year. This allows teachers social and creative individuality while maintaining academic commonality across schools. Curriculum alignment is underway in the elementary schools but still in development at the secondary school level.

Last year's review of the homework policy resulted in the implementation of the new homework guidelines (available on the

LMSD website.) Under review this year are the course requirements for high school graduation.

Dr. McGinley announced the Faculty Art Show reception on October 6<sup>th</sup>. It will take place in the Administration Building from 7:00-9:00 and is being curated by the Director of Education for the Barnes Foundation.

**Presentation by Dr. Mike Kelly, Assistant Superintendent:**

Dr. Kelly discussed the benefits of having a central registration system including the collection of data (where are the new students coming from, at what age, etc.) to identify trends that can be used for planning purposes.

He also addressed school directories and the use of “opt in” versus “opt out.” While “opt in” made more sense this year, it will probably be “opt out” in years to come.

Dr. Kelly announced that the mid-point review of the Strategic Plan is going forward and all information is available on the LMSD website under “School Board Notes.”

The new pool at Lower Merion High School will open for community use on Monday, September 26.

**Presentation by Dr. Dee Spence, Administrator of Secondary Counseling:**

Dr. Spence presented some of the changes in the secondary school counseling department:

- A planned increase in the number of college visits by the students.
- Increase in counselor participation in the guidance newsletters.
- Review and reworking of the counselors’ job descriptions.
- Attempt to increase the number of interns to allow counselors to spend more time meeting with students.
- Implementation of a time task analysis at Lower Merion High School (already completed at Harriton.)

Regarding the SAT/ACT, Dr. Spence noted that beginning in January parents and students can bring test scores in to school for analysis by a representative from Princeton Review.

Princeton Review and Revolution Prep are offering test prep courses beginning this fall (Harrington - after school; Lower Merion - 6:30.)

Financial aid is available for both programs (contact school counselors or the company directly.) In addition, Huntington is offering free practice tests every month.

### **Presentation by Ms. Serratore, new high school counselor:**

Ms. Serratore discussed her role as new high school counselor, focusing on college search, selection and application. She plans to focus on the holistic needs of the student to help them find the college that fits them best. She will be taking students to visit colleges in a more constructive way—sitting in on classes, eating lunch in the cafeteria, seeing the dorms and meeting students in addition to the usual guided tour.

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- ISC President's Meeting - Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at Penn Wynne Elementary.
- ISC General Meeting - Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at the Academy Building.