

ISC Executive Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2020 via Zoom

Present: Jenia Keating, Co-President
Caroline Manogue, Co-President
Laura Banchemo, Vice President, Communications
Mary Cooke, Treasurer
Sindy Agudelo-Nelson, Mini Grants Chair
Lou Savastani, Member-at-Large
Cheryl Masterman, Member-at-Large
Shirley Clifford, Member-at-Large
Randi Berry, Member-at-Large
Sarah Altman, Immediate Past Co-President
Peg Wahrman, Luncheon Co-Coordinator
Karen Dunleavy, Speaker Series Coordinator
Lisa Prosnitz, Student Wellness Coordinator
Ali Liu-Brown, CARE Liaison
Maureen O'Leary, CSE Representative

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 6, 9 – 11 AM Via Zoom

- **Introductions & Expectations – Caroline Manogue and Jenia Keating**

Each board member introduced themselves with their students' schools and role on ISC Board. It was noted that everyone's email is published on LMSD.org, so everyone be aware of resulting scam emails. Caroline Manogue discussed expectations for the year.

- **Budget Review - Mary Cooke**

The ISC closed the 2019/20 budget year on 6/30/20. The ISC netted \$3,309.86, because it did not hold a Luncheon or Spring Speaker.

For the preliminary budget for 2020/21, the ISC added a new budget line for its Committee on Equity and Race for \$1,000, much of which was raised through donations made over the summer to the initiative.

Currently there is \$18,612 in the general account and \$14,397 in the ISC minigrant account.

- **LMSD@Home – Caroline Manogue**

To date, approximately 400 students are registered in LMSD@Home. We will learn later if they are counted towards their home school in the district's Ten Day Count, which may determine HSA dues.

We will not ask the LM Virtual Academy to contribute dues. We will discuss dues levels with the HSA Presidents and are strongly considering lowering dues if collecting them at all. We compared budget structures of dues of \$.55, \$.40 and .25 per student.

Lou Savastani motioned to give ISC Co-Presidents and Treasurer the power to lower dues after discussing the matter with HSA presidents on 9/22/20. This would be a one-time occurrence due to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **CSE – Maureen O’Leary**

It was noted that LMSD lost many CSE students with the switch to remote learning. Maureen O’Leary asked for help in finding more people to volunteer for this group.

- **HSA Presidents Update – Jenia Keating**

The HSA Presidents have requested information on Membership Toolkit (MTK) and dues expectations. Laura Banchemo will host an MTK info meeting for Presidents, Newsletter Editors, and Directory Chairs on Wednesday, 9/9/20.

- **Mini Grant Update – Sindy Agudelo-Nelson**

The ISC reimbursed X out of 26 grants for \$1115.50 between May and September. Sindy will send reminders to teachers to submit receipts for payment and updated in the website in June.

- **Update from ISC Wellness Coordinator (includes Healthy Start Times Update) –Lisa Prosnitz**

Parents are concerned about the increase in screen time for students, as well as how homework is structured with remote learning. Lisa will reach out to Rich Marta with these concerns, and we will add this to the list of possible Hot Topics.

Lisa noted that remote high school begins at 9am, but when these students return to school in-person, they will begin at 7:30am. This may be difficult transition.

- **Update on Parent Education Series – Karen Dunleavy**

Karen will send all HSA Presidents a Parent Ed informational email for Jenia and Caroline to refer to during their 9/22 meeting.

“Mindfulness” at GES was canceled this spring; they asked to reprogram that for 9/23 focusing on coping mechanisms for Zoom and lack of recess. Also canceled this spring was Merion Elementary’s nutrition discussion. We will ask Karen Castanada to possibly do a Hot Topic on cafeteria nutrition later in the school year. Also canceled was Welsh Valley’s “A Day in the Life of a Gender Expansive Child in Public”. We believe this is a better topic to discuss when students are back in school and will consider this for later in the school year.

The first official Parent Ed event (combined with the ISC Committee on Equity & Race) will be “How To Talk About Race” on September 29 from 7-8:30pm, facilitated by Dr. Tara Doaty and hosted by BCMS.

Karen will connect with last spring’s canceled schools first, then approach HSA presidents for other dates.

Caroline Manogue noted that the District may ask all parent meetings to be online all year, even when schools reopen.

- **ISC Luncheon/Staff Appreciation Update - Marilyn Hurst & Peg Wahrman**

Luncheon moved to May – MLRT contract is set with a 5/6/21 event date. Peg will ask Denise LaPera if we could do something in November; it would be low key with a small group. Supt. Copeland liked the idea of a “gratitude” tree, but we would need to work with Facilities’ landscape vendor.

- **Art Show - Stephanie Tomei**

Currently the dates will be 2/6/21-2/14/21, with the open reception from 1-3pm on Saturday 2/6/21 and the closing reception on Saturday 2/14/21 from 1-3pm.

- **Members-At-Large – Cheryl Masterman, Lou Savastani, Shirley Clifford, Randi Berry**

Shelby Sparrow left LMSD and thus left the ISC but will still attend Facility Committee meetings until a replacement is found.

Members-At-Large attend and take minutes on the LMSD School Board’s Curriculum, Policy, Communication, and Facility Committees. These meetings are posted under Lmsd.org/board and are open to the public, starting at 8:30am. Questions are submitted via chat on Zoom. Cheryl Masterman will coordinate the dividing out of who is responsible for which committee via text.

Caroline Manogue covers the School Board’s Regular Business meetings. We will reach out to two possible additional Members-At-Large. Each MAL will also attend an HSA meeting at each school to update them on ISC activities.

- **Update from ISC Committee on Equity & Race – Ali Liu-Brown**

Ali will send all HSA Presidents an introductory email for Jenia to refer to during their 9/22 meeting.

This is a new committee formed early last summer in response to June's civic unrest. Its first event was on 7/21/20, "Let's Talk About Race." The ISC raised \$767 in donations which covered facilitators fees; thank you to Karen Dunleavy, Sarah Altman, Ali Liu-Brown and Caralyn Spector for organizing this. Their second event was a discussion of "Just Mercy" on 8/25/20. Their next event is "How To Talk About Race" on September 29 from 7-8:30pm, facilitated by Dr. Tara Doaty and hosted by BCMS in conjunction with the Parent Education Series. This committee's membership is not limited to ISC board members, but to all parents.

A draft email will be sent to the Ad Hoc Committee on Anti Racism to remind them of this committee and to offer assistance.

We are planning an event on 10/27 with Dr. Doaty and will have her proposal at the end of the week.

To clarify this committee's purpose vis a vis CARE: CARE is a district committee facilitated by Dr. Doaty. Their meetings are at 4pm and are mostly for administrators, teachers, and staff, with a few parents attending. Our new committee's goals are trying to communicate with parents and the greater Lower Merion community. We hope to put a resource list of what's going on in community with respect to equity and race.

- **Upcoming Hot Topics**

These meetings are generally held on second Tuesday of each month and are also the General Meetings for our ISC Representatives from each HSA.

September: Mr. Copeland's State of the District (9/15) via Zoom -

Proposed Future Hot Topics and dates were discussed.

October: How the School Board functions, possibly with Lucy Klain

November: Introducing the new Assistant Superintendent

Possible topics include:

How to talk to your kids about COVID

Nutrition with Karen Castanada

Homework

Mindfulness

New middle school & curriculum

Suicide & mental health & isolation due to Covid -sooner than later

Transportation

Remote teaching

LMSD at home

Cultural Proficiency

Safety in School

Teacher Evaluations

Update on Wolf lawsuit

Grading Policy

Homework Policy

Socialization with Remote Learning – how can families facilitate it, what is the District doing to support it?

BHES' counselor reached out to every family at BH – may be a good person to present this.

Please email Caroline and Jenia with ideas for new hot topics

- **Roundtable/Old/New Business**

It was noted that the ISC needs to update its page on LMSD.org.