

ISC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

January 5, 2020 – 9-11am
via ZOOM

ATTENDEES: Laura Banchemo, VP of Communications
Jenia Keating, Co-President
Caroline Manogue, Co-President
Lou Savastani, Member-At-Large
Cheryl Masterman, Member-At-Large
Mary Cooke, Treasurer
Sarah Altman, Immediate Past President
Peg Wahrman, Staff Appreciation Luncheon Co-Coordinator
Jessie Burkhardt, Art Show Co-Coordinator
Randi Berry, Member-At-Large
Maureen O'Leary, CSE Representative
Shirley Clifford, Member-At-Large
Stephanie Tomei, Art Show Co-Coordinator
Ali Liu-Brown, CARE Liaison
Karen Dunleavy, Parent Education Series Coordinator
Sindy Agudelo-Nelson, MiniGrants Chair
Lisa Prosnitz, Wellness Coordinator

Budget Review – Mary Cooke

There was no activity in the MiniGrant account, which remained at \$13,402.30.

We have received \$890 in transportation appreciation donations from five of the ten HSAs, bringing the General Fund account to \$18,038.37.

Art Show Update – Jessie Burkhardt & Stephanie Tomei

The Co-Coordiators confirmed that Main Line Art Center will allow us to postpone the 2021 event to 2022. Jessie B. and Stephanie T. reached out to LMSD's art teachers to explore their interest in a virtual event; the overwhelmed teachers expressed very little interest. LMHS offered a link to their art e-magazine. [Rather than completely abandoning the art show this year.](#) Sarah A. suggested a non-adjudicated and voluntary

virtual show. The Coordinators agreed to this and will [determine how best to do this and will](#) solicit submissions via newsletters. Applicants may offer one submission of work created during the 20/21 school year, which the Coordinators will assemble on Google Slides. Submitted material may not be limited to art class assignments.

HSA Presidents Update - Jenia Keating

The HSA Presidents wanted to give LMSD's bus drivers & transportation staff a token of appreciation and are arranging [each to receive](#) for \$10 Wawa gift cards and an appreciation banner on Montgomery Avenue near Arnold Field. Transportation staff will distribute 165 \$10 gift cards accompanied by an appreciative note.

ISC Luncheon/Staff Appreciation Update - Marilyn Hurst & Peg Wahrmann

Peg. W. reported that they will work with LMSD parent/caterer Hila Schiff to create box lunches of half-tuna/half-chicken salad wraps with a vegetarian option, water bottle, fruit and dessert. For an additional \$1/lunch, they can be delivered in personalized tote bags, which would bring the total expense to \$3,869. Peg will see if the tote bag expense can be lowered. [It was noted that there was no ISC Luncheon or money spent in connection with staff appreciation in spring 2020. Following discussion,](#) the board approved the additional expense of personalized tote bags but noted that this would be a one-time increase. HSA presidents will help deliver these lunches to their principals, and Peg and Marilyn will address delivery to School Board members at a later date. Staff will need to RSVP with their "meat or veggie" wrap preference; Peg will work with Denise LaPera on this.

Mini Grant Update – Sindy Agudelo-Nelson

We are moving forward with the MiniGrant process for the 2021/22 cycle. We did not receive any reimbursement requests in December from 2020/21 grantees and have outstanding grants of \$9,200 from the 2020/21 cycle. Sindy will continue to reach out to the grant recipients but senses that they are overwhelmed. Instead of attending faculty meetings in person, she will share a PowerPoint with principals and ask them to share with their faculties. The "Invitation to Apply" will go out to teachers on 1/25/21, with an application deadline of 4/7/21. Grants will be announced in May. Sarah A. reminded the Committee that any unspent funds over \$1,000 needs to be offered back to the HSAs; the outstanding grants from the 2019/20 cycle totaled \$4,900, and the grant recipients have had a 6-month deadline extension and are not replying our emails. Sindy will notify the outstanding 19/20 grant recipients that their funds are no longer available and invite them to reapply for 2021/22. We will then [credit](#) \$490 to each HSA's [2021/22](#) MiniGrant dues. [Accordingly,](#) Mary C. will bill the HSA presidents and treasurers [only](#) \$510 for the 2021/22 cycle. Caroline M. reminded us that LMSD@Home will need to be included in the MiniGrant process.

Update on Parent Education Series – Karen Dunleavy

The next three Parent Education Series events are set:

1/19/21 - Al Vernacchio on “Raising Sexually Healthy Kids” hosted by Penn Valley

2/23 - Dr. Jeanie Stanley on LGBTQ+ students’ isolation and equity hosted by Welsh Valley

3/23 - Isolation and Self Care for Parents, presenter TBD, hosted by LMHS

Karen D. spoke with Terry Quinlan-Clampfe, who suggested [having](#) the Caron Foundation [present](#) on drugs and vaping as [a possible](#) topic. Caroline M suggested a Parent Ed event using the December “Students’ Well Being and Care” speakers (Kimberly Fraser, Adil Nure, Rich Marta and Melissa Sinapi-Gibson) for April’s event. We still need a Parent Education Series coordinator for next year. [All Board members were encouraged to think about potential people who may be interested in this role.](#) Karen [D.](#) hopes to have the 2021 Fall series set by [June](#).

ISC Wellness Coordinator – Lisa Prosnitz

Lisa P. noted that the push for later start times is now dependent on getting lights on Arnold Field lights and is unlikely to happen until 2022/23. Any additional advocacy would best be done by students. She reached out to the Harriton and LMHS Students Councils to gauge their interest in pushing this. Cheryl M. emphasized that the time for students to strike is now, given that they are experiencing 9am start times. Sarah A. noted that the 11th, 10th and 9th graders are better suited to take on the issue, given that they will be the ones to benefit. Karen D. suggested roundtable discussions for students to discuss stress or to create a Wellness position on student councils.

At-Large Members, School Board Committee Reports - Cheryl Masterman, Lou Savastani, Shirley Clifford, Randi Berry

Cheryl M., Finance Committee The presenter for the School Board’s audit had missing pages from the audit report at the Finance Committee meeting but presented them at the Regular Business meeting.

Lou S., Facilities LMSD will purchase ten new 72-passenger CNG buses and eight new 30-passenger gasoline buses to replace some current buses. Electric buses are not available in size and horsepower needed. Bipolar ionization units have been installed and are operational.

Randi B., Curriculum – A new semester course, “Black Excellence: The Politics, Economics & Culture of an American People” will be offered to 10th, 11th and 12th graders in 2021/2022. Extended Kindergarten was successful, but its gains would require further support in following years. The ISC was recognized for its MiniGrant funding of the joint middle school pilot “Culturally Responsive Teaching with ‘Stamped’ by Ibram X Kendi.” Lucy Klain recognized the ISC during this committee meeting; Caroline M. noted that Lucy has been vocally supportive of the ISC as a LMSD Board Member.

Shirley C., Policy - Megan Schafer presented a thorough review of “Equity in Policy Considerations” with the goal of creating protocols to evaluate new and existing policies to advance equity using an “equity lens” to identify, reduce or eliminate barriers among underserved, marginalized individuals and groups.

ISC CARE Representative and LMSD Board’s Ad Hoc Committee on Equity & Race – Ali Liu-Brown

CARE did not meet in December 2020. The LMSD Ad Hoc Committee discussed the different equity organizations in and out of the district and the diversity of their participants. Breakout groups discussed how to increase diversity of participants and how to get more people involved. They also discussed partnering with civic association and faith-based groups to help disseminate this group’s work. A new LMHS parent group, Hues (“**H**SAs **U**nited for **E**quity in **S**chools”), is putting a newsletter together to highlight different equity and anti-racism groups at LMHS.

CSE Representative – Maureen O’Leary

February’s Hot Topic on 2/9/21 will discuss Special Education. Maureen O’L. asked if Jenny Knox, a Gladwyne ES parent, could speak to what inclusion means for parents. Caroline M. and Maureen O’L. will flesh out this presentation with Dr. McGloin.

CSE is short on board representatives [and the Board was asked to think about people who might be interested in helping.](#)

Upcoming Hot Topics

January 12th at 9:30 AM via Zoom – Grading Policies and Elementary Report Card Update with Jason Lilly and Robin Klaiber

February 9th at 9:30 AM via Zoom – Special Education

Roundtable/Old & New Business

ISC was contacted by the Democratic Committee for Lower Merion and Narberth soliciting questions for their [LMSD](#) school board [and LM Commissioner](#) primary events. Caroline M. will also reach out to our high schools’ Student Councils and the LMEA for their input, and she will reach out to the local Republican committee for inclusion in their primary events. [As a reminder,](#) the ISC will host [a debate in the fall for all school board candidates in connection with](#) Lower Merion League of Women Voters.

[There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11 am.](#)