

ISC EXECUTIVE MEETING

MINUTES

December 1, 2020 – 9-11am
via ZOOM

Attendees:

Sarah Altman

Laura Banchemo

Randi Berry

Shirley Clifford

Karen Dunleavy

Jenia Keating

Ali Liu Brown

Caroline Manogue

Cheryl Masterman

Maureen O'Leary

Lisa Prosnitz

Lou Savastani

Stephanie Tomei

Peg Wahrman

Budget Review - Mary Cooke

The ISC General Fund issued two payments in November: \$850 to Dr. Tara Doaty for the "Equity 101" event; and \$113.38 to Laura Banchemo for MiniGrant expense reimbursements and the ISC Zoom account. The General Fund balance is \$17,148.37.

The MiniGrant balance is \$13,402.30; Mary reported one payment of \$400 for a 19/20 grant. Mary noted that Jenia K. needs to be added as a signatory on the ISC [bank](#) accounts. She also reported that the isc-co-president@gmail.com address was phished and warned the board to verify suspicious emails.

Communications Update – Laura Banchemo

After assessing the increased responsibilities of the VP of Communications role, Laura B. asked to make the position a shared "Co-VP" role. There are more

social media postings, Zoom arrangements and increased COVID-related communications from LMSD, which [has](#) changed the parameters of the role. She solicited for possible candidates for the role. She shared Communications Guidelines for ISC Events and acknowledged that it was difficult to ask District presenters to adhere to deadlines.

Caroline M. noted that Dr. McGloin is going to draft blurbs for Hot Topics and Parent Ed events and emphasized our need to be patient with District.

Karen D. motioned to accept October and November 2020's minutes, and Lou S. seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

CSE Representative – Maureen O’Leary

CSE has been somewhat inactive, since its board members are parents with special education students at home, and their focus is on their students’ current unique challenges. Also, some [CSE](#) board members left LMSD at the start of the year. The CSE Parent Series is continuing; they are keeping up their mailing list; and they continue to have bi-monthly calls with Kimberly Fraser. Caroline M. mentioned that the 2/9/20 Hot Topic will be about Special Education and encouraged Maureen O. to offer her feedback on its focus during her call with Kimberly Fraser tonight.

School Board Committee Reports

Curriculum Meeting – Randi B. had nothing to report because they will be meeting tomorrow, Wednesday 12/2/20.

Communications – Cheryl M. reported that this committee is working on an equity infographic that would send LMSD website users to their home school’s Equity page. The District is creating their own COVID-19 hotline.

Facilities/Purchasing - Lou S. reported that the new middle school is on time and under budget. The [School](#) Board approved bipolar ionization for all school cafeterias, not just for high schools and middle schools as they previously intended. This will also be installed in HS gyms, with a target date of end of December. Nursing suites will be HEPA filtered and will not share their air with the rest of their schools through ductwork. The Welsh Valley bus depot will need more trees to complete its landscaping.

Policy - Shirley reported that school windows will need to remain closed in order for updated air systems to work; given the importance of this relative to COVID mitigation, the Policy committee formalized this as a policy. She also reported that Policy 213 was revised to remove the Valedictorian and Salutatorian rankings. For this year’s 10th grade class (effective 2023), they will introduce the academic honors system of Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude and Summa Cum Laude. For this year’s 8th grade class (effective 2025), they will eliminate the

Valedictorian and Salutatorian honors and institute a new way of selecting graduation speakers from the student body.

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

CARE - Ali L. attended last month's CARE meeting regarding the difficulty of embracing change in equity work. Students attended and were meaningfully engaged by Dr. Doaty. These meetings build on topics discussed in prior meetings, and their next meeting will be in January.

LMSD Board's Ad Hoc Committee on Equity and Race - Ali L. reported that Megan Shafer discussed how LMSD goes through the process of evaluating their equity policies. Kristina Paul updated this committee on the upcoming equity audit and asked the committee for its input on how to structure the data gathering, through either self-assessment or guided assessment.

Drs. Gaudioso and McGloin updated the committee on cultural proficiency. Ali L. noted that the two high schools were offering their 10th graders different books and asked them via email, "What books were chosen for 10th grade". HHS is piloting a different book than LMHS. **ALI – PLEASE CLARIFY.** Taj Byrd updated the committee on the high schools' equity groups and student empowerment initiatives.

Ali L. reported that LMSD is creating an infographic for its website that would send users to each school's cultural proficiency resource page. Lynn Partridge is currently working on Penn Wynne's page, and Sarah A. shared that it seemed very promising.

Ali L. reached out to Jill Altshuler, who is active in a LMHS parent group for cultural proficiency, in hopes of starting a similar group at HHS. Karen D. noted that LMSD has set up cultural proficiency groups for staff in each school. Also some parents made their own groups, and then some schools put parents on their staff groups. Ali L. thought that it was important to encourage parents to organize around this issue and noted that CARE clearly states that parents are stakeholders. Caroline M. mentioned that the 4/13/20 Hot Topic will be Cultural Proficiency.

Achievement Imperative Task Force – Sarah A. [is a member of](#) this group as part of [its](#) subcommittee for Community and Parents. Muneera Walker said it was important to have black parent voices in what we do and volunteered to help connect to Ardmore community. Since the LMSD administration now manages CARE, there is no longer a forum for parents. If any parent wants to add input or participate in this task force, they are actively seeking members, especially from upper grades.

Caroline M. reminded the ISC Executive Committee to keep eyes and ears open for diverse parents to join us next year.

HSA Presidents Update – Jenia Keating

Jenia K. gauged the HSA presidents' interest and ability to fund the 2021/22 Minigrant Program; they are fully supportive of fully funding it and recognize its value. They will ask their respective principals about the teachers' ability and interest in participating this year and will report back in December.

The HSA presidents also discussed at length the challenges of building community within their students, staff, teachers, and families and shared community resources and best practices. Gladwyne's presidents suggested doing an appreciation for bus drivers, as part of American Education Week. LMSD employs 126 drivers [plus aides and support staff](#) and currently has [active](#) bus depots at LMHS, HHS and in Conshohocken. Caroline M. asked the Transportation Department for its feedback on showing appreciation with banners at bus depots and gift cards for drivers, and it was a welcome idea.

Caroline M. hoped to continue having an ISC Executive Board member attend one of each school's HSA General Meetings. Karen D. will ask the schools for these dates to set up the Parent Education events and will share the dates with Caroline M.

Ali L. asked if HSAs were still planning assemblies and mentioned that Delta Arts is doing theirs virtually. She also asked if book fairs were still happening. Caroline M. said that it was up to each school; some principals are encouraging Friday afternoon virtual events and some aren't.

Mini Grant Update – Cindy Agudelo-Nelson

Sindy could not be present but prepared to move forward as usual.

Art Show – Stephanie Tomei

Stephanie T. yesterday reached out to the art teachers, asking about the feasibility of getting actual art work for this event. She heard back from Ms. Russo of BCMS, who thought it would not be possible. Stephanie T. suspects that these teachers are busy dealing with remote teaching challenges but will wait to hear from the rest of them. She will ask the HSA presidents to get each school's art show contacts. Karen D. suggested that these art show reps may be a good way to assess the art show's feasibility. Randi B. proposed that the ISC directly solicit the students for submissions, easing the teachers' workload. Ideas for how to sponsor a virtual show were discussed. Cheryl M. noted that students already photograph their art (with varying results) to submit to teachers. Lisa P. noted that HHS Art Department's Instagram account could serve as an example

of how to proceed. Mary Cooke will confirm if we paid Main Line Art Center for the event this year.

ISC Wellness Coordinator – Lisa Prosnitz

Lisa P. started to build a constructive relationship with strong opponents to lights on Arnold Field. She also noted that the Lower Merion and Narberth Coalition for Youth is hosting a Zoom webinar on the effects of the pandemic on area teenagers, and some LM high schoolers will participate as speakers.

She also noted that LMSD School Board elections will be in November. Each political party's endorsements may come in January or March. Anyone interested in running would be well served to start now. League of Women Voters is hosting a "Throw Your Hat in the Ring" event next week.

The producers of the film "Race To Nowhere" pitched their project "Beyond Measure" to Lisa P. This film examines the question, "What if our education system valued personal growth over test scores?" Cheryl M. screened it for her community group two years ago with 80-90 attendees from all over community. The producers asked for \$350, including their participation in a follow-up Zoom Q&A. Karen D. expressed concerned about the film's broad appeal to community. Cheryl M. mentioned that PA Bill 1216 proposed removing the Keystone exam requirement for 2021 but had not passed yet. She proposed that the ISC ask Rich Marta to partner and help pay for it, since it dovetails with strategic plan. Sarah A. suggested that Caroline M. and Jenia K. discuss this with Supt. Copeland.

Update on Parent Education Series – Karen Dunleavy

Karen D. reported that Al Vernacchio will present his popular "Sex Ed for Elementary Schoolers" event in January at Penn Valley. She will coordinate with Penn Valley and Al to set a date.

Last month's "Talking to Your Kids About Race" event with Taj Byrd and BCMS was successful, and tonight Merion was hosting "Smart Snacking for Student Success" with Karen Castaneda and Robin Danowski. She noted that last year Terry Quinlan would put these events on the LMSD calendar, and Caroline M. and Jenia K. will explore how to do so this year.

Karen D. would not be at tonight's event, but Merion will introduce the speakers. Terry Quinlan likes to send follow up surveys for these events. Sarah A will reach out to Ms. Stout, who said she would collect emails through the Zoom Chat for this purpose.

Karen D. began the discussion for a possible spring speaker in 2021. She noted that it could be a nationally prominent speaker, because it would be virtual.

ISC Luncheon/Staff Appreciation Update - Peg Wahrmann

For the May 2021 Luncheon, caterers will assemble box lunches and secure them with a personalized “Thank you” sticker. Marilyn Hurst and [Peg Wahrmann](#) will deliver the box lunches to the Administration building and ask the HSA presidents to deliver them to their principals and assistant principals. 2020’s deposit to Main Line Reform Temple was rolled over to 2021, and we will need to roll it over again for 2022.

Upcoming Hot Topics

December 8th at 9:30 AM via Zoom – “Students’ Well-Being & Care” with Rich Marta, Adil Nure, Kimberly Fraser and Melissa Sinapi-Gibson