

ISC Executive Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2020 via Zoom at 9 AM

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
Stephanie Tomei, Member-at-Large
Sarah Altman, Immediate Past Co-President
Peg Wahrman, Luncheon Co-Coordinator
Marilyn Hurst, Luncheon Co-Coordinator
Karen Dunleavy, Speaker Series Coordinator
Lisa Prosnitz, Student Wellness Coordinator
Ali Liu-Brown, CARE Liaison
Jenny Knox, CSE Liaison

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 10, 9 – 11 AM Via Zoom

MINUTE APPROVAL

Lou S. motioned to accept the September 2020 Minutes, and Karen D. seconded. They were approved unanimously.

BUDGET REVIEW

Mary C. reported that there was no change in the ISC General Fund cash flow for the previous month. The General Fund account remains at \$18,611.75. If the ISC does not collect dues from the HSAs yet hosts its usual events, the ISC would experience an approximate \$5,000 net loss. Stephanie T. noted that the ISC Art Show, should it go on, would not host opening or closing receptions and had a surplus of supplies from last year, thus reducing any future Art Show expenses.

Jenia K. reported that LMHS and HHS are asking for “pay what you can” dues from their families and that PVES and WVMS have reduced their dues. There was general consensus that the ISC should not ask HSAs for ISC dues this year, given that the usual means of fundraising are not available due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Karen D. noted that since the luncheon was not held last year, there are funds that were not spent and also noted that LMHS’s HSA membership dues are lower this year compared to last.

Karen D. motioned that the ISC not collect its usual dues from the HSAs for 2020/2021 school year. Mary C. seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

DISTRICT REQUESTS

The new middle school is likely to come in under budget, as reported by Cheryl M. and Lou S. The District asked for the ISC's thoughts on how to best communicate this to the community. The Board discussed this matter. The District also asked for assistance in producing special magnets for their "LMSD – Lather Mask Socially Distance" campaign. Peg W. offered to approach the LMSD Alumni Association to cover the costs requested by the District.

MINI GRANTS

The MiniGrant bank account balance is \$13,802. Two 20/21 grants were paid out to in September. Of the \$11,200 granted to 26 projects for 2020/2021, \$1,987.75 has been paid out for 5 projects.

Sindy A.N. noted that many of the typical grants are for items that cannot be used in a pandemic, such as manipulatives or shared materials. Caroline M. confirmed that the ISC would ask the HSAs for their MiniGrant contributions but noted that we may need to consider lowering the contribution, given the fundraising concerns. Stephanie T. asked how LMSD@Home would be represented in this process. Sindy A.N. offered to approach the school principals for their feedback on what can and can't be funded. Caroline M. and Jenia K. will discuss the contributions with the HSA Presidents.

Sindy A.N. will reach out to the remaining 2019/2020 grant recipients who have not submitted receipts. They will have a 6-month extension for their grants; if the recipient does not submit receipts by 12/31/20, they will forfeit their grant money which will become available for future grants.

LMSD@HOME

Caroline M. emailed its principal, Mr. Hunter. He agreed to advertise the Hot Topic events in his family communications and thanked the HSA Presidents who agreed to serve as liaisons for LMSD@Home. For the "10 Day" Count and for directories, @Home students were accounted under their base/"home" school. Stephanie T. reported that her family was still getting Thursday Envelopes and newsletters from her base/"home" school and that there was an active FaceBook page for these families. At the "3 Day Count", 1,166 students were registered in LMSD@Home, 321 of which were high schoolers. Stephanie T. volunteered to represent LMSD@Home on the ISC board.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICY: Shirley C. reported that this committee created a Summary Chart of the Professional Ethics and Conflict of Interests policy. This addressed tutoring, private coaching, student fundraising, etc. This chart will be posted online.

COMMUNICATIONS: Cheryl M. reported that the committee is exploring hosting a virtual student speaker series whereby the students select a speaker of national renown, such as Fiona Hill, for a remote presentation. This committee is also working on an infographic for the elementary Anti-Racism curriculum. Lisa P. will meet with Board member Peter Lee on Wednesday 10/7/20 to discuss how the District is communicating with the community, civic associations, Lower Merion Township commissioners, etc. Cheryl M. commended LMHS's Diversity Coordinator Taj Byrd for his success in connecting with the community and students.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON EQUITY AND ANTI-RACISM

It was noted that the an ISC Parent Education event entitled "How to Talk to Your Child about Race" is being planned. It was also noted that Dr. Tara Doaty confirmed her availability for the ISC's "Equity 101" event on 10/27/20, which Caroline M. and Jenia K. will confirm with Supt. Copeland. Ali L.B. will attend CARE and Ad Hoc Committee meetings and share her notes from them with the ISC Board.

HSA PRESIDENTS

Jenia K. reported that at the September ISC/HSA presidents' meeting, the ISC representatives joined the meeting for a review of their role in connecting the ISC to their school community. Karen D. proposed that the ISC Reps offer their communities a summary of each Hot Topic. She also proposed that it could be done by one ISC Rep each month on a rotating basis.

STUDENT WELLNESS

Lisa P. reported that Supt. Copeland will have an announcement about healthy start times in the October Regular Business Meeting. She sent an email to Rich Marta offering help in assisting high schoolers with mental health and COVID stressors. She suggested that he and Terry Quinlan-Campfe could be appropriate Hot Topic presenters in December and January.

PARENT EDUCATION SERIES

Karen D. shared that the November Parent Ed event will be "Nutrition" with Karen Castaneda, hosted by Merion Elementary. We may reschedule Al Vernacchio again for his well-received presentation on elementary sex education, which was cancelled in the Spring. Janie Stanley's presentation on "A Day in the Life of a Gender Expansive/Transgender Student" in middle school has been put on hold; this topic is best addressed when students return to in-person instruction.

HOT TOPICS

The October Hot Topic will be “Demystifying the School Board” on 10/13/20 with Lucy Klain and Subha Robinson via Zoom.

The November Hot Topic will be “Meeting and Greeting Dr. McGloin and Dr. Gaudio” on 11/17/20. The official title of this event will be forthcoming.

ROUNDTABLE

Caroline M. asked that everyone please keep succession in mind for ISC roles and committees and suggested that the Board continue to think about the pipeline of new board members for future years.

Sarah A. noted that the Achievement Imperative Task Force is due to meet again after having been on hiatus.