

McDonogh Parents Association
Upper School Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2018
8:30 am

Welcome and Introductions:

Jill Eisner, Chair

Jill thanked everyone for the survey and encouraged people to attend the Mix and Mingle Saturday night. She introduced herself and allowed time for all present to introduce self and children. Thank you to Jill Bers for bringing food.

Kristin Henry, Assistant Chair

Attendance: Jill Eisner, Kristin Henry, Merritt Livermore, Jill Bers, Debbie Thacker, Erin Coudon, Kristin McCarthy, Chao Deng, Rodney Armero, Randi Hertzberg, Jen Little, Ann Fleming, Kirsten Lockyer, Litsa Wethern

Upper School Update:

Merritt Livermore, Head of Upper School-- French exchange students- 24 students and 3 teachers from France coming into Dulles today; Course registration materials are out, registration starts Thursday to select courses, print out form and have teachers, advisors, college counselors, deans sign off; Sophomore college counselor meetings are this week and next; Parent Teacher conferences are Thursday night and will continue even with a delay of school start; Leadership opportunities were explained to students with decisions in April (Honor Council, Class leadership positions, rising Seniors interested in RL, etc); Robotics going to Virginia Tech; School day on Easter Monday, will be a modified schedule and will work with students who maybe absent; April Fools Day is on Easter Sunday so US is celebrating on April 3rd, Andy Hilgartner working with Seniors for "good, clean fun"; Sophomore "stay safe" date changed to Wed, April 4th for parents and students of Sophomores; Student productions in spring; Lisa Winters Robotacist speaker and workshops for students; PROM coming up

Q- Will we get out early today? A: We may cancel after school activities today because of snow

Q-Is there anything online about the new houses and STEM/SEED building? A: Faculty housing ready by August 1st; Fader Innovation Center will be opening summer 2018 for Robotics, engineering, SEED (Social Entrepreneurial, Engineering, Design program), students can be eligible to take 1-3 year(s) program depending on when students enter program with 3 teachers (Match Zimmerman, Steve Eno, Ned Courtemanche) hoping to have more students in program than were allowed in Engineering class; building used in evening for extra curricular programs; FRC and FTC (middle and upper school versions); the past engineering class is wrapped into this program/course; McDonogh Works program with contracting company going into building this Thursday

Editor's Addendum:

In the winter magazine, there were articles written on each (housing on page 18; Fader Innovation Center on page 17). A PDF of the magazine is online: <https://www.mcdonogh.org/c/alumni/magazine>.

Q- Would you explain the new technology during lockdowns? A: "Pinpoint" Jack Hardcastle and Rick Landsman created this system and sends a message to all cell phones registered, link takes to website that asks McDonogh specific questions, helps to indicate who the students are with, building students are located in; software assimilates the information to account for everyone; sign up for weather alert and will get the pinpoint info; register cell numbers on DASH/ personal page

Q- Is there more security and are they armed? A: yes, there now are 3 security guards on duty during school day, 2 guards until boarders are locked in dorms, 1 security guard from 11pm-6am; yes, some are armed as they are retired or off-duty police officers, their guns are supposed to be concealed; one guard does not have a gun; all faculty/staff are now wearing badges to help students identify who to ask for help

Q- Have we had any student walkouts in support of anti-guns or is there McDonogh transportation to the DC rally March 24th? A-Michele McFarland and John Wood working with students, but no organized bus provided; there have not been any student walk-outs

Q- How are students recommended for upcoming classes A: The recommended classes are on the students' DASH and can speak with advisors.

Parent Relations:

Ann Fleming, Director of Advancement Services and Parent Relations--- Ann- Badges are to be worn by all staff and identify all employees, students know they can come to anyone with a badge; lower school doors are always locked except for front door

Jen Little, Incoming Director of McDonogh Connect, Director of Parent Relations, Co-Director of the R-L Leaders Program ---

Mix and Mingle-Saturday, March 24th 7:30-10:30 pm, over 400 people attending; plenty of food and drinks; "come as you are"; announcements will be made at 9pm; still need volunteers Friday and Saturday; please email Ann Fleming if you can help or follow link in newsletter

MPA Updates:

Randi Hyatt, MPA Chair- not present

Erika Davies, MPA Assistant Chair- not present

All School Committees:

After Prom:

Debbie Thacker, Chair- the date for next meeting is beginning of April, tbd; She is working on prizes with Angela Class and Alison DeMartin; they need volunteers (set up at 10:30 pm, closes at 3am), if you have any prizes (gifts, tickets, electronics) that you would like to donate, please let Debbie know at vmi86@aol.com; Signed contract for new venue at Dave and Busters in White Marsh, will need specific areas to be monitored with parent volunteers (come whenever you are available); Debbie offered to be chair for After Prom for next year and has assistants to help this year and next; June 5th is PROM (8pm-11:30/12) and After Prom (June 6th morning); April 23rd releases location of PROM during assembly

Upper School Committees:

Used Uniform:

Pam Foresman, Chair -not present, no updates, except The Gently Used Uniform Sale Room will be open on Thursday, March 22 (4:00 to 7:00 p.m.) during Upper School Parent-Teacher Conferences. Remember, donations are welcome throughout the year and may be dropped off outside of Mrs. Waskey's office in the Upper School. Questions? Contact Pam Foresman at pamela.foresman@verizon.net.

Teacher Coffee Bar:

Jill Bloom, Chair - completed in February; well attended

Student Treat (Snowballs):

Jill Bloom, Chair (May 3), need 3 volunteers, 9:30-1pm, volunteers can be in 2 shifts; please contact Jill at jillbloom@comcast.net

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon (Spring): **Kristin Henry**, Chair

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fLbRV_bEJ3ofFm6h4ntI90Npu5AnQOS_wFDVGjfgI58/edit

Teacher appreciation is April 19th 11:30-1pm. Koopers food truck is providing most food with supplements from the donations listed on the google doc. If anyone wants to help with flowers, please contact Kristin Henry at henryfamily5@mac.com or sign up on the google doc; We will be on Rosenberg Green with table and blankets unless poor weather, then will be in St. John Student Center; thank you for everyone's help

Discussion: Chairs and Volunteers for next year's committees

Positions for 2018-2019 year:

Junior Pin- Randi Hertzberg and Melissa Ingerman

After Prom- Debbie Thacker, Angela Class, Alison DeMartin

Teacher Coffee Bar-open

Snowball Stand/student treat-open

College Rep Bags- ? may not need position

Used Uniform- Pam Foresman

Fall luncheon- Jill Bers and Dana DiCarla

Spring Teacher Appreciation luncheon- Brian Nevin

Parenting Education- Judy Yu

Parent get-together- Jill Eisner

Parent Class Liaison Chairs:

Freshman-Erin Coudon

Sophomore-Kristin McCarthy

Junior - Jill Bers

Senior- Randi Hertzberg

Vice chair- Brian Nevin

Chair-Kristin Henry

Upcoming dates:

March 22- US Parent-Teacher Conferences (late afternoon & early evening)

March 24- All-School Parents only "Mix, Mingle, McDonogh" 7:30-10:30 pm Paterakis Hall in Edward St. John Center (magician, farewell to Jen & Charlie Britton, jazz band, and Copper Kitchen Catering)

March 28- 8:30-10:00 am Parent Coffee at Panera (All Upper School Parents welcome, simply show up!)
1852 Reisterstown Road Owings Mills

April 4- Sophomore Stay Safe Night

April 17- Parent Happy Hour at Valley Inn 5:30-7:30pm- (front bar)- 10501 Falls Road, Lutherville

April 18 US info night for Grade 8

April 19- 11:30-1pm Spring teacher luncheon Rosenberg Green

May 3- snowball stand for US

Next meetings:

Tuesday, April 10th at 8:30am at Mullan Board Room

Tuesday, May 8th at 8:30am at Mullan Board Room