

MCDONOGH
PARENTS ASSOCIATION

**McDonogh Parents Association
Upper School Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2018 - 8:30 am**

Welcome

Attendance: Melissa Ingerman, Lisa Bark, Kristin McCarthy, Amy Blavatt, Erin Coudon, Jen Little, Rodney Armero, Amy Wagner, Leslie Zuga, Chao Deng, Galina Nesterovsky, Debbie Thacker, Molly Hanes, Christine Simonds, Tabitha Timity, Lynn Ransome, Kirsten Lockyer, Annabelle Alvi, Brian Nevin, Elise Michelson, Lea Ward, Elise Breen, Jill Eisner, Kristin Henry

Jill Eisner, Chair; Introductions around the room; thank you to Merritt and Andy for speaking today

Kristin Henry, Assistant Chair; thank you for refreshments today and parent class liaisons who sent out a message to remind about meetings; We had a coffee at Panera March 28th attended by 4 people, we will try on campus coffees to increase attendance; Please come to the upcoming all upper school parent happy hour at Valley Inn, April 17th 5:30-7:30pm; We need refreshments for May meeting. Please contact Kristin at henryfamily5@mac.com

Upper School Update:

Merritt Livermore, Head of Upper School- Glad to have chance to address concern about social media snapchat post investigation issue yesterday targeting the Gerstell community; The concern was not physically at McDonogh School; From the investigation yesterday, it was determined that the McDonogh student in question did not create the snapchat and was not a threat to McDonogh or any other school. An investigation and debriefing will continue about how the snapchat was manipulated and reposted. McDonogh is trying to help protect all students. We hope to follow-up after the investigation is closed, so that we can help the students understand the lessons that can be learned and the legal ramifications of this type of behavior.

Q: What are the security measures in place if something should happen at McDonogh?

A: Parents and students would get an alert from Nina Sinnott from communications. The Security number is (443) 544-7111. Please add it to your address book.

Q: Parent asked about security of Boarders

A: Merritt stated that security has always been there, but looking at using technology to help with security; Asked students to keep blinds "up" on windows when not needing them; now asked to have doors open during study hall instead of always closed; sign out procedure is stronger

Q: Parent asked about update on Boarders

A: Merritt will relay concerns. There are discussions about the boarding program and more information will come out; we are starting to focus on boy culture/ video games/ athletics and how to help instruct the kids; "The Mask You Live In" is a movie that maybe incorporated into

wellness program. **The Mask You Live In** follows boys and young men as they struggle to stay true to themselves while negotiating America's narrow definition of masculinity. Research shows that compared to girls, boys in the U.S. are more likely to be diagnosed with a behavior disorder, prescribed stimulant medications, and fail out of school.

Q: Will you speak about the responsible adults in the dorms?

A: My understanding is that there was no information brought to an adult. Hindsight is 20/20. We are looking at all of the roles. We are asking how we can be more vigilant across the board with accountability programming.

Q: Is there an opportunity for snow/ski/snowboard club on Friday nights in Jan and Feb?

A: We will need to look into the legal concerns and what is needed from teachers.

Guest Speaker:

Andy Hilgartner, Senior Class Dean: This is his 11th year as class dean. Senior year is important and busy with applications for college, teachers still expecting classwork, etc; Senior class dinner happened in February with a young alumni program and hypnotist; we just had April fools the other day; All Deans wear a lot of hats: we provide the greatest possible experience for the students; we are a disciplinarian, liaison, counselor, etc; the class size increased to 152 students this year, yet still need to continue to make it feel "small", it can be a challenge and opportunity; May 8th last day of class; May 10th Senior class transition day with speakers: College residential life speaker and Jerry Love talking about legal concerns/senior week/ parties at college, sexual consent; Keith Wilford from senior class retreat in August will talk about legacy, where headed/ mission in life, and may have a panel of young alumni; May 11th headmaster day; senior projects start May 12th (internships, travel, service); then graduation with all staff, coaches, teachers, Deans to congratulate the students.

All School Committees:

After Prom:

Debbie Thacker, Chair- committee met Friday, donations letter will be going out very soon, a large part of the Prom budget comes from donations. Please consider a monetary donation even if not Junior and Senior, as your student will benefit from the same process their junior and seniors years. Prize donations are needed, a sign up genius for prizes will be coming out and posted soon. Please donate any prizes; We are looking for volunteers (especially looking for Freshman and Sophomore parents for the morning of Wed, June 6th 12-3am (The Junior/Senior Prom is Tuesday, June 5th); May 2nd Senior upper school assembly will give out the invitations to the After Prom at Dave and Busters in White Marsh. Prom is put on by Junior class/school event. Please reach out to Debbie at debbiethacker5@gmail.com for donations and volunteering and any interest in treasurer for after prom for next year. We will miss Tabitha Timity.

Upper School Committees:

Used Uniform:

Pam Foresman, Chair - Pam couldn't be here, but had successful event, sales were very high, \$750 made that day alone; she asked for more donations to replenish clothes, especially white pants for graduation, please leave clothes outside Mrs. Waskey's office; thank you to Katie Michaelson who has helped a lot; future dates to come out

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; if anyone is interested in chairing this event or the coffee bar, please contact Jill Eisner eisner.jill@gmail.com

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon (Spring): Kristin Henry, Chair

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fLbRV_bEJ3ofFm6h4ntI90Npu5AnQOS_wFDVGjfgI58/edit Teacher appreciation is April 19th 11:30am; Thank you for all the donations and volunteerings. The Food Truck will arrive rain or shine. "Thank you" favor was passed around. Jen Little will ask about placing teak tables on the terrace for the teachers and will make MPA signage for the luncheon.

Chairs and Volunteers for 2018-2019 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- Jen Kirol

Used Uniform- Pam Foresman

Fall luncheon- Jill Bers and Dana DiCarlo

Spring Teacher Appreciation Luncheon- Brian Nevin

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:

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 2- Volunteer thank you coffee for all parents; all volunteers welcome 8:30am in St. John's

May 3 - snowball stand for US students and teachers

May 5 - Senior Class Parent Get Together party at Adler's

May 8- next US MPA meeting at 8:30am at Mullan Board Room

Thank you to Rodney Armero, Tabitha Timity, Lisa Bark for bringing refreshments!

