

Parent Board Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, September 24, 2018

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in Judd-312

Partial list of Attendees: UCLS Director of Schools, Dr. Charlie Abelmann, Director of Security, Christopher Jones, PA Co-presidents, Lauren Polite and Barbara Kern, ColLaborator representatives, Amanda Lissak, PA Board members and parents.

AGENDA

- 7 p.m. –**
1. Introduction: Barbara Kern and Lauren Polite
 2. Brief announcements , Introduction of individual Council Member and the Executive Board
 3. Welcome by Director of Schools, Charlie Abelmann
 4. Lab Security Update by Christopher Jones
 5. Parent participation/volunteering/ColLABorator Amanda
 6. UCLS website, Schoology, PowerSchool I information by Barbara and Lauren
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– 8:30 p.m. Adjourn and Disperse

Minutes from the previous meeting were sent to all PA Board members prior to the meeting.

1) 7.05 pm: Sharing & Brief Announcements: Barbara Kern introduced herself and Lauren as incoming PA Board presidents and working together throughout the 2018-2019 school years.

2) Introduction of individual Council Members and the Executive Board: BK went over the PA organizational chart and introduced the current and incoming PA Board members.

Lauren Polite (LP) took over and emphasized that their efforts would be focused on three key areas listed below.

- **Strengthening UCLS as community:** -- As incoming PA co-presidents it is important for them to working with schools to create healthy social and emotional environment for all Building community and support , strengthening volunteerism, including all affinity groups , monitoring securities procedures, parent education of MS/HS school survey .

LP went over Tentative Speaker series and mentioned more school specific PEI speakers would be announced later during the school year.

- ✚ The Self Driven child, November, 13th, Tuesday
- ✚ How to be a happier parent, May 16th, Thursday
- ✚ American Epic Guest Artist Program: This year will focus on culinary Arts - would like to have parent participation in developing initiative. Parents involved/interested in culinary arts and we will get more information on this program by contacting LP or BK.

- **Affinity Groups:** Goal is to reach where UCLS community can support and recognize accomplishments our students in wide range of areas. Spirit Council is launching, Spirit Council is comprised of volunteers who support the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools Athletic teams and all celebratory activities that generate enthusiasm around the accomplishments of our student body. For more information, please contact Angie Holleb or Tiffany flowers, who are Spirit council co-chairs. In future, there would more efforts for faculty branding too.
- **All School Events:** BK said that Jackman Field Day on 9/15, was a huge success and they making every effort make within school across all divisions to hold community wide events. All school events Lab Arts, Holiday Book Fair, Dewey Dance, Rites of May will be held as usual, and it is 50th year for Rites of May.

2) 7.05 pm: - Welcome by Director of Schools, Dr. Charlie Abelmann (CA): CA thanked the PA board and said that he appreciates all they do and his welcome speech had the following key points.

- **New Faculty and Administration:** In addition to the administrators already in these roles at Lab, we will welcome these individuals to the school: N-2 Dean of Students, Sarah Abella, N-2 Dean of Faculty, Rickey Harris, LS Dean of Students, Sonia Perez, HS Dean of Teaching Learning, Noah Rachlin, Associate Director Keith Christopher Jones, who are an amazing new group highlighting sense of community.
- **Jackman Field:** was successful with two great soccer games , would like to Celebrate the event similar to eclipse , School is large get in to a routine Create opportunities to mix and mingle, Continue to become better, People's vision to make landscape better, Enhance the building, Committed volunteers, Free riders to super volunteers, People talents and interests.
- **Health Survey and Dialogos and Strategic Vision:** Executive summary for all families, deeper details in library included. Some alarming acts which they came across were covering a lot of activities like Drugs/ Alcohol, sexual activities and depression. Conversations needed to be run among parents /parents, parents/school and we could take care of them how can we take care of them. CA brought up that Lab's strategy partners, Dialogos will be visiting Lab during the first week of October, will conduct a "dialogue session" with parents on Tuesday, October 2, from 8-9:30 a.m., to discuss parents' experiences and hear their views on a range of issues. Dialogos will host a three day workshop in Jan /Feb, Develop framework for working together, faculty management at all schools, another round of parent input soon, community events at lab school Moon Festival,
- **Parents Fund:** how as a school we believe in philanthropy and how we allow students to study at lab school, new families suggest how they can be part of UCLS family.
- **Arts:** Art Gallery at the lobby, Arts by Ferrari, all events relating Science Education and Guest speakers. He expressed that fewer parents are attending Speaker series, and he mentioned that he would like to see more parent volunteer at school.

At the end of his welcome note, CA thanked the leadership of PA and support and support, made the introduction for Christopher Jones introduction.

7.29 p. m - CA welcomed Christopher Jones (CJ)

3) 7.30 p. m - Christopher Jones, Associate Director of Schools (CJ): CJ recalled an incident which happened on June 4th, for 1.35 minutes, there was an intruder in ESH who was a proven sex offender. After the incident, the school regularly evaluated the security program to mitigate risks and follow best practices to actively support Lab's unique and strong school community. CJ wanted to walk through security updates to July to September, 2018. He mentioned staffing with UCPD which is comparable to size and professionalism of a private police force, and we have five positioning officers instead of 2 in ESH, SRO stay extension until 9pm.

- **ESH Security Updates:** Parents/guardians/caregivers who wish to accompany their students into the building must enter at the main entrance on Stony Island.
- **Historic Campus Updates:** no entry through Gordon Arts hall, single access at Kovler gym, in building camera, U high Students leaving at lunch tap in and tap out

- **Tap in/Tap out:** introductory session tapping went well at all schools, thinking about installing turnstiles later.
- **Training:** – first fire drill already faculty training how to use buttons, teachers and staff communicate with security
- **Emergency action plans:** CJ mentioned are evaluating added security enhancements that this assessment considered, as well as examining other security measures.
- **Partnership with UChicago:** UChicago safe resources and communication available to anyone who is in area and it is encouraged install the app provided by UChicago, which is free for all.
- **In future:** turnstiles thinking about it, safety glass slow bad intent and armed at ESH/UHigh, hiring a new director and work carefully with Tech/IT to get IDs easily before the school year starts.
- **Questions from Attendees:**
 - ✚ Could teachers talk to parents directly and inform them in case there was a fire drill?
 - ✚ How to prepare kids in a thoughtful way, particularly HS students are the most common ones to leave the campus, also since everyone is tapping out , only HS does not how do we keep HS safe?
 - ✚ If teachers could take attendance period by period, since LS is the most vulnerable because they don't have a way to get back in to school?

CJ and several division heads replied back to these questions by stating that LS takes attendance period wise, all teachers have texting apps connect LC/admin, and students are given a Nurse Pass to visit the School Nurse. Teachers know a way to lock the classroom in case of a event that is unwelcome, shut the door, and barricade thumb turn automatically to lock the classroom. Teachers are given training on Run/Hide/Fight Scenario and teachers are trained to take independent action based on the situation. In future they collaborate with UChicago for more training emergency management response.

7.52 p. m: CJ ended the discussion and CA took over and added that threat assistance team took over the issue and a threat full assessment on that report will be available soon. He also mentioned that the school is safest parents, students and school staff and faculty are when working together to make school safer.

4) 7.55 p. m - CA introduced Amanda Lissak(AL): AL briefly talked about “CoLLaborator” an exciting hands-on experiment in collaborating and educating parent database. The main idea of this project is to Find volunteers whose interest align with a specific project or expertise to help Find potential student internship or community service opportunities. Parents first fill in a survey, which would enable school to fit them in to categories, once we know their talent/interests/age groups. The invite was going to send out soon via an email to create a database only faculty can access. The information submitted by a parent is hidden information and also is password protected. AL mentioned that the faculty at school was excited; teachers may search the database for someone with specific knowledge or expertise. If your knowledge and interests line up with the teacher's needs, the teacher may contact you for further assistance in the classroom.

5) 8.02 p. m LP Website introduction: LP emphasized that UCLS motto is learning by doing, this is an exciting hands-on experiment in collaborating, educating laboratory school. Later, she spent some time on website introduction to new parents. She went over the details for planning calendar, athletic schedule and parent tech center. She later shifted to Schoology, which would include Schoology parent group, which is used by ESH and LS and use room parents use that for informing that what is happening in their respective classrooms. Also, she navigated through PowerSchool which is used for class schedules, Attendance summary, Sports Registration Family Directory. Enews is a great resource encapsulates school wide events. Lastly PA Website, resource for many activities and orientations planned which will help prepare for the year ahead and give you opportunities to meet and connect with other families.

8.17 p. m Thanks and disperse