

March 17, 2016
SLLIS Council Meeting

Attendees: Lisa Dorner, Jeff LeFan, Shannon Oberkrom, Ed O'Neal, Nicole Tate, Jack Williams,

1. Review of Feb. 18 meeting notes

2. Committee Reports & Feedback

A. Enrollment

- Still waiting for families to return forms
- Middle school families should know that the middle school is no longer accepting applications from students who did not graduate from a SLLIS elementary school or have the language skills to mix in with the SLLIS elementary graduates
- Decided to make projections from April, to determine staff for following year, etc.
- Goal is to have around 867 student to match with financial projections
- Whitney is doing kindergarten round-ups and planning for upcoming events: Girls on the Run, Cinco de Mayo, Greenhouse Venture Project in Shaw Neighborhood "Education Alliance" --- any parents who are involved in these community events, please get post-cards from Whitney, contact Shannon
- Possible partnerships between Ameren and IKEA are in the planning stages

B. Communications

- Website improvements continue
- All board meetings will be followed with a newsletter
- Working with a parent on a texting system to communicate with families
- Communication playbook in process
- The draft calendar from March 16 board meeting is ONLY A DRAFT; SLLIS tries to match with SLPS and SLPS calendar is undergoing some change; teachers are talking about switching to trimesters because easier to align parent teacher conference days, the testing/assessments and the PYP units of inquiry (6 total)
- Parent Recommendation: Need to have a coordinated effort on the calendar; once we have a school year academic calendar, let's have the Heads of School submit the tentative dates for their major events
- Parent Question/Recommendation: Need to create an online progress reporting system for student academics; Dr. Jack reported that training for Power School will happen in June, with eventually having parents' access to students' grades and progress online

C. Development

- Trivia Night planning and conversations happening; currently finalizing space/venue; waiting to hear back and then the date will be advertised; potentially on May 13 at International Institute; Rachel is supporting, reaching out to previous sponsors

- Trivia Night Partnership among all three elementary schools

D. Facilities

- French School parent got a grant to support beautification; Marine is getting a mural in the East stairway.
- COO Carlton Brooks gave an update on safety/security at the recent Board meeting; improvements are being noticed by parents
- Marine is monitoring cleaning crews; deep cleaning will happen during Spring Break
- Landlord is working on HVAC repair at Papin
- Current building leases end after the 2018-2019 school year

- Recommendation from parents at Marine: take care to notice the grass that is disappearing where the students get on the bus; with spring-time rains, this will be mud; maybe put in mulch

3. Update on President's Search

- Narrowed the choice to three search firms, received written proposals and watched live presentations; made recommendations to Board for a particular search firm; and rec'd engagement agreement.
- Hope to start engaging search firm by next week
- The firm's first activity will be to work with Search Committee and Board to finalize what SLLIS is looking for
- Committed to finding the right person; don't want to make a hurried decision
- Targeting to have someone start for the next school year

- Discussion: What plans are in place for support in the interim? Dr. Jack will continue to provide support; his official role as interim director currently runs through the end of June. The Search Committee is working as quickly as possible, but wants to take the amount of time necessary to get the right leader for the organization.

4. Academic Calendar

- Parents asked to give/get feedback on the calendar re: perceptions of winter break. Discussion focused on the length of 2 weeks, and whether it was OK to shorten it, to follow SLPS.
- ***Parents will gather input on this question from others and send to Dr. Jack.***

5. New Business and Other Questions

Parents asked the Board and Admin to share information about the following:

- What's happening with before and after care? *At this point, it looks like it will probably stay the same.*

- What's the plan for summer school? *There is no summer school in 2016. The admin has not decided yet about 2017. Some parents are interested in having it open for the full range of students. SACs should discuss their preferences on this.*

*** Board Member Search Updates and Ideas ***

Parents asked how the board is doing on the search for new members. Ed O'Neal responded and discussion ensued about how parents could support these efforts.

- Board is actively engaged in finding new board members; the Board asks that parents with contacts submit ideas to the board; looking for skill sets around academic excellent, finance, facilities; send ideas to Dr. Jack or any of board members.
- There is someone that will likely join the board soon.
- Parents can be on a committee; there is a nominating process for parents to be on an academic excellence committee
- The Board in the past has decided to not have parents on the Board, but continues to have the conversation about whether parents could be used on the board.
- UMSL has no regulation against having parents on the board.
- The Board would like to have 7-9 members.
- Is there a financial commitment that is asked of board members? Yes, a little less than \$2000/year.
- The Board is also actively working on their own communications, with the overarching goal is that the board should focus on governing and oversight, not communicating directly with the public; this should be the president and the heads of school.
- Recommendation: Can you regularly report: What are the board priorities for the year? For instance, how are we keeping track of the action items from strategic planning, surveys, and town halls. Board members are currently working on their goal setting and related measures.

April 21, 6:30 pm - Next meeting