

PGA General Membership Minutes

Date: May 11, 2021

1. Welcome by PGA president April Paris-Joseph

- a. **Feb. 9, 2021 minutes.** Motion to approve February 9, 2021 minutes passed by 91%, 9% abstained.
- b. **Treasurer's Report and approval of 2021-22 Budget Allocation – Scott Ruthfield**
 - The PGA Executive Board establishes a budget for the year to come.
 - The PGA Executive Board determines size and allocations of gifts to Lakeside from PGA funds.
 - The PGA Executive Board confirms cash position.
 - This year we reset expectations on allocation strategy.
 - “Tools for the Job” are grants we make to the teachers to enable them to get whatever they need for teaching. This year it went largely unused due to the pandemic. We expect this money to be used next year.
 - The PGA budget also supports endowments, LEEP summer program, and one-time expenses (which are the Yearbook and a Reopening Project this year).
 - Cash management policy. The main PGA fundraiser (ROAR) happens so early in the school year that we do not typically have any cash flow issues.
- c. **Motion** to approve 2021-22 PGA Budget passed by 98%, 2% abstained.

2. Nominations Committee Board slate – Julie Yee

- a. This year's Nominations Committee included: April Joseph, Debbie Conway, Winston Yeung, Julie Yee, Simone Johnson, Abebech (Abie) Afework, Marcelo Garces, Minnie Reichel, Gregg Schuler, Patty Morrissey, Shirin Issa, and Victoria Best.
- b. Over 450 nominations were made. 92 positions were filled. The Board slate represents all areas of the Lakeside community.
- c. Next year there will not be grade level reps designated to events, rather all grade reps will share in putting on grade level events.
- d. Nominations committee received feedback that our community would like the nominations process to be more transparent and inviting to all Lakeside P&Gs.
- e. The PGA Board slate for 2021-22 was presented.
- f. **Motion** to approve PGA Board slate for 2021-22 passed by 98%, 2% abstained.

3. Upper School report – Felicia Wilkes

- a. **Rough year:** Students and teachers have made it through the year. Some students are still struggling to make it through.
- b. **May Days** went well. The 9/10 grade May Day had great weather and was well attended.
- c. **Dr. Keith Edwards** was here to work with both divisions to educate the community on preventing sexual violence. Juniors and seniors are required to attend sessions with him. Sexual violence prevention workshops will happen every year.
- d. **Lunch outside:** 9-12th graders can have lunch outside if they want.
- e. **Free periods outside:** Juniors and seniors can be outside for frees as well.
- f. **Final exams** begin May 24th.
- g. **Project based assessments** may take the place of final exams in some courses.
- h. **June 1-4** are days dedicated to final exams for juniors and seniors.

- i. **June 7** - Senior class is planning on-campus events for this date.
- j. **Senior prom, graduation and baccalaureate** will happen on campus.
- k. **Retreats for all grades** will happen next year. They will consist of one-night overnights and will take place in early fall.
- l. **Schedule** for next year will be A/B rotation. Fridays will no longer be asynchronous.
- m. **Reopening:** We plan to open fully in the fall and have fewer restrictions since all students and faculty will be vaccinated by next fall. School day will run from 8:30 am – 3:10 pm.

4. Head of School – Bernie Noe

- a. **Reopening:** Next year we expect to be back on campus. Everyone who comes to campus will be required to be vaccinated.
- b. **On-line learning** is great but there are limitations. This school year the teachers did a great job teaching remotely.
- c. **Overall student sentiment on learning:** Bernie met with over 700 students and they all reported that the teachers did a great job teaching remotely and in the hybrid model.
- d. **Community:** There has been an erosion of community this year because it is not possible to maintain the same sense of community when we are not in person.
- e. **Return to campus:** The students appreciated coming back to campus. They were able to keep up with friends but not with acquaintances. Some students are losing social skills. The student-teacher relationship is not as strong in a remote setting. Students reported that their education this year was still very robust despite remote learning.
- f. **COVID-19 next fall:** Unless there are new, highly contagious virus variants, we will open normally in the fall. Even if there are variants, we will open with masks, social distancing, portable classrooms, etc.
- g. **PGA meetings on ZOOM:** We would like to keep the PGA meetings on-line (or hybrid) as it gave more P&Gs the opportunity to attend than when they were held on campus.
- h. **Vaccinations:** All students will be required to be vaccinated to attend Lakeside.
- i. **Major changes on hold:** We are not launching Lion Term or making changes to the calendar next year. Rather, we will focus on a return to normal.
- j. **Greater course offerings:** We will try to incorporate what we have learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, technologically speaking, to be able to offer more course choices for students.
- k. **Our skills/competencies/mindsets curriculum** will launch next year.
- l. **Retreats:** All US grades will have retreats next year in an effort to rebuild community.
- m. **Fun!** Another goal next year is just to have fun and enjoy being together.
- n. **Q:** What is the plan for bringing back class of 2020, 2021 because of missed opportunities like proms and reunions? **A:** Class of 2020 can come back to have a prom and dinner. At the end of 2022 ALL alumni will be invited to come back to campus. For class of 2021, we are offering all of the normal end-of-year events (on campus and socially distanced).
- o. **Q:** How will the science of virus spread outdoors impact year-end plans? **A:** Bernie will need to look into it.
- p. **Q:** Party for alums on quad will not include P&Gs? **A:** Correct

5. Middle School report – Reem Abu

- a. **7th grade outdoor trips:** We just said goodbye to our 7th graders. The remote students who did not join the outdoor trip will have a component to engage in this week.
- b. **End-of-year plan:** We are gearing up for our end-of-year plans and hope we can hold our parties for grades 5-7 on June 4th.
- c. **June 4** - the 8th graders will be off campus.
- d. Students are still engaging in their learning.
- e. **Afterschool sports programs** are going well and students seem happy.
- f. **Reopening in the fall:** we are hoping to begin the year as we normally do with grade level retreats and fall sports.
- g. **News about vaccines** for 12-15 year-olds is a good sign.
- h. **Welcome nights:** We have been hosting welcome nights for new Lakeside families via Zoom.
- i. **Q:** Retreats? **A:** We will organize one-day retreats by grade level during the first two weeks of school.
- j. **The ABC schedule** will resume. In the middle of every day there is a 45-minute period dedicated to community building. It is called ACT which stands for All Community Time.
- k. **In lieu of 8th grade GSL trip** this year, the 8th graders are doing a backpacking trip the last week of school.
- l. **Q:** Will lakeside offer GSL trips for 8th graders next year? **A:** We are working on modifying it until the communities that we normally visit are able to welcome us back.
- m. **Q:** Will MS hold social events for families during the summer? **A:** PGA usually does something. But we need to consult with Bryan Smith to find out what we can and can't do.
- n. **Q:** The MS will increase by 17 students. What will the impact be? **A:** Actually, instead of admitting 17 new students in 7th grade, they will be admitted in 6th grade. This will allow the larger class of 85 students to be together beginning in 6th grade which will result in less fragmentation in the subsequent MS grades.

6. College Counseling report – Ari Worthman

- a. **Class of 2021** will attend 75 different colleges and universities.
- b. **Biggest trend** was that applications were up everywhere. This will likely continue.
- c. **Virtual programs:** Due to the pandemic, colleges created extensive virtual programs which allowed them to reach more audiences. These virtual programs will remain post pandemic.
- d. **Test optional:** Colleges removing test requirements was also a factor in the increase of applications.
- e. **Future of testing:** We don't know which schools will go back to requiring testing. Over time we may see most colleges go test-optional. These tests are highly biased and favor those who live in wealthier zip codes as well as those of Caucasian and Asian backgrounds.
- f. **College admit rates** by likelihood for Lakeside class of 2021 were relatively consistent with prior years.
- g. **Student experiences** in college admissions were highly varied - meaning some had many positive outcomes while others received many rejections. Rejections can be very difficult for teens to handle.
- h. **College Counseling department:** There was high turnover in the College Counseling department this year. The new team will be in place this summer. The incoming College

Counselors are very experienced in College Admissions which will benefit our students as they go through the college application process.

- i. **Q:** Can you clarify the rise in application numbers? **A:** It was more concentrated in the highly selective schools.
- j. **Q:** What was the impact of GAP years on this year's admissions? **A:** All of our students who took GAP years were admitted in 2020, committed to a college, and then took a GAP year. The GAP year students didn't have a huge impact on admissions this year. Colleges who granted GAP years ended up increasing the number of students they admitted this year. Also, for a variety of reasons related to the pandemic, there were many students who transferred to another college/university this year.

7. **Thank you and passing of the gavel** – April Paris-Joseph and Katie Traverse

8. **Motion** to adjourn was passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:42 am.