

1/14/10
US PAC Minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:40 p.m.

All members present with exception of Craig Robinson and Jon Cook.

Guest: Nicole Taucare, head of Search Committee for new Upper School Head.

Search Committee report

In late November and early December, Headmaster Bill Heim met with the Upper School faculty to compile a recommended profile for the Upper School Head candidate. The faculty stressed the need for classroom experience in the candidate.

The Search Committee was formed prior to the winter break. Headmaster Heim presented the Committee with a list of 15 candidates, which he had selected from a much larger pool of applicants. Headmaster Heim had traveled to Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and Reno to meet with thirteen of the applicants. From this pool, a short list of four candidates was compiled.

Four of the candidates are being brought to campus for onsite visits. It will be a two-day visit. On one of the days, the search committee will have an early dinner with the candidate and then the candidates will attend a coffee/dessert to meet with PAC reps and PA reps.

PSAT Results

Some concern expressed by sophomore and junior parents that students did not meet the national merit levels. The exact range of scores required for national merit level are not yet known, but the sophomore and juniors test scores are in the SAME range as previous classes. National merit ranges change slightly from year to year based on national scoring, but Sage Ridge students performed at the same level as previous years, so Dr. Gaye does not believe this is any kind of 'flag' or cause for concern.

Several parents replied to this concern with the observation that test scores, while important, are not the only indicator of how well our students are prepared for college. Sage Ridge alumni do well in college, stay in college, and report back consistently how well prepared they are for college compared to their college classmates.

And if students did not in fact meet national merit ranges, it is only by a matter of a very few points; again, it was stressed that students performed absolutely as well as previous classes, but relative National merit values change as function of entire population.

2011 Senior Seminar

This seminar will definitely be taught by Dr. Gaye. Even though Dr. Gaye is retiring from administration, she has great loyalty to the Sage Ridge students and to the classroom.

Next Year's PAC

Anne Barnes will step up take over as Chair as Darla Garey-Sage asked to be relieved from this duty for her daughter's senior year. Linda Curcio will step up as a freshmen rep. Those currently serving were invited to return.

2010-11 PAC Members

Freshmen reps: Linda Curcio and ??

Sophomore reps: Karen Gabriel (confirmed) and Janet Lowe (?)

Junior Reps: Anne Barnes (confirmed) and Craig Robinson (?)

Senior Reps: Darla Garey-Sage and Mark Lowenstern

Administration

Dr. Gaye reported that the course selection sheets for next year will come out earlier this year as Dr. Gaye is working 'ahead' to have everything organized prior to stepping down as Upper School Head.

Transcript audits will take place in early spring, new this year, to ensure that all students are on track for the colleges in which they have an interest. Certain colleges/universities have unique requirements that Andrew Quinn and Dr. Gaye will address with students.

Annual Fund

Hosting a 'poker' night to encourage participation and raise funds.

Next Meeting

US PAC will meet on Wednesday (2/10) rather than Thursday in February because of a conflict with building scheduling. Contact your class rep with any agenda items.

Respectfully submitted,
Darla Garey-Sage, US PAC Chair