SAC meeting, June 7, 2016 Meeting Minutes (by Andrea Appel)

We began in the library at approximately 4:45 p.m.

In attendance were: Jessica Brown; Louis Borda; Tara Hayden; Alfredo Practico; Kim Neu; Carolyn Gray; Nicole Geiger; Andrea Appel and Charles Hayden.

The Meeting Minutes from the May 24, 2016 meeting were approved (by Motion and Second)

Ms. Brown reported that we still need parents to help at the Middle School graduation, that the Rendell Center partnership, Senior Projects and Finals were proceeding as scheduled, that Odyssey of the Mind went to the finals (!), that college acceptances have been rolling in and Ms. Brown will compile statistics and that the High School music concert is this Friday.

We discussed the upcoming elections (which, it was decided in the previous meeting) will take place in early Fall. Ms. Brown requested a blurb for her next blog to alert parents to the upcoming SAC election in the hopes of inspiring individuals to run. Ms. Appel agreed to draft the blurb and send to Ms. Brown.

We discussed topics the SAC could address next year, in addition to the required votes and approvals. We agreed on the following four areas:

 1. CDC Design on the Roof—SAC should represent on the project;

 2. Wellness Policy – SAC should ensure compliance with the School District Wellness Policy, trying to move away from celebrating every success with pizza and providing more education to students and their families about healthy eating and care;

 3. Diversity – SAC should find a way(s) to address the school’s diversity issues, including the low representation of African American males in the High School

-Ms. Hayden noted that by 7th and 8th grade, AA boys decide they do not want to stay at Masterman and so begin to tank their performance and that we should try to find a way or ways to prime the pipeline early so that boys are less likely to do this

-Also an issue of few Latino boys in the High School

-No African American male teachers

-We could look into community members to provide support to middle school minority boys

-This year, we used a mentoring and leadership group from Penn in the 7th and 8th grades for this purpose. Ms. Brown will seek out feedback on the usefulness/success of this program

-Ms. Gray noted that some minority middle school boys struggle academically and that the Homework Club does not meet their needs

-Mr. Practico questioned whether our efforts should be limited only to African American and Latino boys. The group decided to look at the statistics to identify areas of need, including the stats for the incoming classes (MS and HS)

-Ms. Brown noted that an applicant’s race is not known to the panel making admission decisions

-The group discussed that better recruitment efforts are needed, especially in schools without counselors and that the SAC used to be active in this role

 4. Alumni – SAC should increase efforts to engage future alumni (current students who will become alumni) by instilling more school pride and cohesiveness

 -Alumni should include those who only attended for Middle School (4 years, just like high school, just like college, shared experiences).

-A goal should be to increase Middle School pride. To that end, we should consider a Middle School class reunion. Also, we should consider a speaker at the Middle School graduation who can discuss Middle School pride and inclusion and future cohesion. Since Ms. Brown attended the Middle School, she will address this topic at this year’s Middle School graduation.

 -Some parents in the HAS have volunteered to help increase alumni involvement (and so did Mr. Borda and Mr. Hayden)

 -Ms. Neu believes that the alumni who filled out the contact forms at the alumni basketball game have been contacted by the appropriate faculty according to what each person volunteered to do

We will continue to meet next year on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 4:45 in the Library.

End.