

PCO Meeting – January 14, 2016

Christy Fitzpatrick Burns reviewed the upcoming calendar items. She noted upcoming days off and a new half day on February 1.

We welcomed a new parent that evening (shared name, grade of child)

Mini Grants – Christy reviewed a recent request for a mini grant but she didn't have the application from the Mini Grant Committee. It was agreed upon that we would wait until the group reviewed the actual application to determine if it is approved.

Christy will also reach out to Ryan Little to check on the Go-Pro application that was submitted in the fall. Currently the PCO is on a spending freeze, with minor exceptions. It was noted that we should ensure that the teacher who applied for this grant still wants the Go-Pro before asking for funds to be released for mini grants.

PCO Board Update – Kate Brennan (PCO Board Rep) attended the last Board of Trustees meeting in December when she was sworn in. Kate reported that the Administration is working hard on an initiative to ensure that teachers and staff have a fair compensation path. The Board held a retreat this month in place of a monthly meeting. Kate will report back on the retreat in next month's meeting as she was unable to attend it.

Home Office Update – Lisa Perry (Chief Development Office) First, Lisa thanked the PCO and many families that donated to the school. She reported that the school raised \$7,000 in two weeks after a call was made to the ECS community for donations due to the budget impasse. The school also greatly appreciates all of the supply donations. Initially they gave each school \$500 for supplies. They will distribute \$200 to each grade in the upcoming weeks. They also really appreciate the paper that is being donated.

Lower School Beautification Project - Lisa reported that \$2,500 was donated from a foundation and will be used for the Project which they hope to kick-off in the spring.

Day of Giving – this is an online fund raiser that will take place on May 3. More information will be sent out as the date approaches.

Fundraisers – ECS will hold a fundraiser at Francktuary in Lawrenceville on February 24 from 5-7pm. 10% of sales will go towards ECS.

Lisa reported that the Whole Foods fundraiser raised over \$10,000 for the Food Justice for Pittsburgh project.

Development Plan – Lisa mentioned that she was brought on to create an ongoing development plan for the school. This school year she is working on putting a fundraising plan together that will help guide us into the future. Next school year she will put the plan into action and during the 2017-18 school year there will be a large gala and a year-long celebration of the school's 10th year. She will continue to keep the PCO abreast of plans as they come to fruition.

Lisa mentioned that the school is working with a consultant from Duquesne University, Dr. Temple S. Lovelace who is working alongside the teachers on diversity. There was a great discussion on diversity during the meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Erica Levin. Erica reported that the PCO is still on a spending freeze. We may be able to release some funds on a case-by-case basis. She will check with the Home Office, particularly for the mini-grants.

PCO help for ECS families – Christy reported that the PCO will be able to help families in need of a ride or for clothing, such as dress clothes for the school concert. They will put a call out for concert attire when we collect gently used uniforms. Christy is working with Beth Flynn, school guidance counselor on this initiative.

Documentary "Most Likely to Succeed"- The feature-length documentary *Most Likely to Succeed* examines the history of education, revealing the growing shortcomings of our school model in today's innovative world.

Christy reported that the school hosted a screening of this documentary and participants were extremely impressed with it. The Administration would like to show another screening for teachers on a staff development day. They would also like to have another screening for families since they had such positive feedback. Many parents mentioned that they would like to see it again.

Current state of the PCO Executive Committee - Christy asked the group their thoughts on the current state of the PCO 's Executive Committee. General feedback and questions that arose include:

- Does the PCO need to rebrand?
- What is the purpose of the PCO, it was formed ten years ago, and do we need to reevaluate our purpose?
- The Executive Committee should brainstorm and come up with a strategic plan and create a survey to get feedback from the parent community.