

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies School Advisory Council

Minutes from SAC meeting on November 11, 2020

The virtual meeting was called to order (via Zoom) at 7:36 a.m. by Chair, Michael Larkin

Members Present: Michael Larkin, Ed Coleman, Karen Townsend, Denise Rasmussen, Max Smith, Gabriella Watson, Madison Kang, Rachel Gable, Karen Smith-Will, Leigh Anne Ratliff, Chase Gunlicks, Crista Hamilton, and Virginia Warren. A simple majority was present for quorum at the time the meeting was called to order.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda

- The minutes from September's meeting were approved without any changes.
- The agenda for today's meeting was approved as proposed.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

New Business

- Calendar - Max reported this committee met once last month and looked at the first semester. They will next begin looking at the second semester next and drafting an early start and standard start.
- Nominations and by-laws – Karen T. will lead this committee, with Leigh Anne and Rachel G. as additional members.
- Campus life during COVID - Gabriella reported that Campus life has met 5 times. They started with a survey of students to gather comfort level. Drive-in movie has been planned. Yoga and chalk day coming up. The PTSA partnered with SAC on resources
- MLWGS strategic marketing plan – Virginia reported on behalf of the committee, which met 3 weeks ago. They will be focused on capturing materials for creating a video to share with 6th graders about the school. Dr Ellis is engaged in a similar effort to prepare a video for 6th graders. Karen S. mentioned that the drama group is working on a play that could be used for video material.
- Prospective students /early engagement – Ed reported that the committee has not met yet and may initially coordinate efforts with the marketing group to align with their plan. Karen S. suggested targeting certain groups of elementary teams (i.e., Lego Robotics). Crista mentioned that there used to be a science day for middle school kids. Leigh Anne mentioned model UN. Ed

suggested Chess club. Michael suggested piloting something with an underrepresented middle school, possibly Carver which is close by.

- Removing structural barriers to student engagement – (written report from Rachel L) - We have met twice, and we have decided to develop a survey to gather student feedback and input on how we might be able to make changes to school climate when the school reopens in February. While resources such as transportation maybe part of what comes up, the goal is to get more at the heart of why students from underrepresented backgrounds feel disengaged, less connected to the school, and perhaps less inclined to participate in school activities. Developing a survey of this nature is an important task, and we are hoping to develop a focus group of seniors to help us craft the questions. I am working with Gabriella to craft an invitation email for the focus group (she is currently awaiting my email draft), and we hope to meet with these students next week. Our goal would be to launch the survey between Thanksgiving and winter break, then provide recommendations to Dr. Lowerre based on the survey data in January.
- SAC marketing and communications plan - Karen T., Denise, Ed, and Michael will be meeting soon to discuss SAC’s website presence. Karen T. attends PTSA meeting and offered to solicit resources from PTSA volunteer rosters for any committee wanting outside participants. Karen S. asked about if there is any mention of outside participation in SAC’s bylaws. The bylaws committee will investigate.

Michael asked if there are any gaps or too much work. The committee memberships were reviewed and modified to consist of the following:

Committee	Lead(s)	Members
Nominations and By-Laws	Karen Townsend	Rachel Gable, Leigh Anne Ratliff
School Calendar	Max Smith	Crista Hamilton, Lynn Plevich, Rachel Gable, Karen Smith-Will
“Campus Life during COVID”	Gabriella Watson, Rachel Gable	Rachel Loving, Denise Rasmussen, Max Smith, Madison Kang
MLWGS Strategic Marketing Plan	Chase Gunlicks, Virginia Warren	Colleen Hall, Crista Hamilton, Michael Larkin
Prospective Students Early Engagement	Ed Coleman	Colleen Hall, Madison Kang, Denise Rasmussen, Leigh Anne Ratliff, Karen Smith-Will, Virginia Warren
Removing structural barriers to student engagement	Rachel Loving	Rachel Gable, Chase Gunlicks, Rachel Loving, Lynn Plevich, Leigh Anne Ratliff, Gabriella Watson
SAC Marketing and Communications Plan	Michael Larkin	Karen Townsend, Denise Rasmussen, Ed Coleman

Announcements and Closure

There were no additional announcements from the floor. The meeting adjourned at 8:13 a.m.