

PARENT ASSOCIATION OF TAKOMA ACADEMY

SEPTEMBER 9, 2007

MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:20A.M. In attendance were approximately 20 parents for the general session, and 4 parents and 1 student for the work bee which immediately followed the meeting. The general meeting ended at approximately 10:30A.M. A general synopsis of the discussion follows.

Opening Prayer

PATA SHORT TERM GOALS DISCUSSED

1. Immediate goal of improving the aesthetic appearance of the windows visible to the public, continues to move forward. PATA has raised two thirds of the 35 thousand dollars that it will require to complete this project. Installation of the first phase of this project is scheduled to begin in October. We ask for your continued solicitation of friends, business associates, financial contacts, to complete this mission.
2. As we complete this project, it will be necessary for us to focus our attention on another area of immediate need. Parents expressed concern over the security of the school campus, and the need for a fence, and/or gate around the facility, and at the front entrance of the school to prevent unauthorized use of the school facilities by the community. Concern has also been raised regarding the cafeteria and its need to be renovated, and updated. Prioritizing our resources, and focus will need to be a point of discussion at our next meeting.
3. Increasing parental involvement in these initiatives was also discussed. We need to have increased parental participation in these meetings in an ongoing fashion. One of the functions of PATA as stated in its bylaws is to be an advocate for this institution to the community, and church. The only way for this to happen, is all parents to be engaged, informed and involved. Some parents present volunteered to be involved in contacting parents personally with regards to upcoming PATA meetings or events.
4. Creating a list of skills/expertise/talents that we as parents could donate to the school was also discussed. This could be added to the present database that we have as an additional column. It was pointed out by various parents that at other private institutions, parental involvement is not optional, but required. Although we as parents are responsible for tuition, donating our individual talents helps defray the costs, and improve the overall experience of our students collectively.

PATA LONG TERM GOALS DISCUSSED

1. There is a need for a long term plan for this institution. As it presently stands, there is limited transient support from the surrounding Adventist churches. For this school to be successful longitudinally, there needs to be an increased

- involvement, and advocacy at the church level. As of last year, this school had student representation from over forty churches in the area. The major Potomac Conference churches being Sligo, Takoma Park, Seabrook, Community Praise, Southern Asian, and Beltsville. The major Allegheny East churches being Metropolitan, Emmanuel Brinklow, Breath of Life, First Church, Dupont Park, and Capital Hill. The prospect of organizing member liaisons to each of these churches was discussed. The objective of these liaisons being to sponsor at these churches announcements, programs, and public relations which place this school and it's accomplishments in a positive light, and to also voice the importance of Christian education. This should in turn foster increased recruitment of resources, advocacy, and prospective student enrollment. These issues were discussed, and some persons volunteered to be a representative at their respective church.
2. Creating an outreach to the community was also discussed, as there is a small but significant non-Adventist enrollment at the school presently.

Closing Prayer

Thereafter, a small group of parents did some weeding in the flower beds in the front of the school, and picked up trash/debris primarily around the front of the institution. Efforts concluded at 12:00

Respectfully Submitted

Irving Westney
President,
Parent Association of Takoma Academy