Approved DPN Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2014

Members Present:
Parents: Marc Johnson, Karen Wood, Betsy Swindell, Louise York, Lesley Koeppel, Scott Vallar, Mary-Catharine Sullivan, Brenda Piviotto, Amy Bowllan, Mark Bowllan, Serena Bowman, Lauren Driscoll, Meredith Lytle, Louisa Cohlan, John Cohlan, Jennifer Andrews, Meg Knight, George Knight, Michele Sit, Julie Halloran,

Administration: Dr. Margarita Curtis, Amie Creagh, Pam Safford, CJ Menard

Members Absent:
Deborah Norville, Hilary McInerny, Missy DeCamp, David DeCamp, David Piviotto, Adianna Vasquez, Diego Munoz, Theresa Castellano-Wood, Benjamin Castellano-Wood

Opening Remarks

Marc Johnson, President, opened the meeting at 7:45 am. Minutes of the May 3, 2014 meeting were approved. Marc welcomed the new members voted in at the May meeting.

Head of School Comments

Dr. Margarita Curtis discussed the recent disciplinary events of the last two weeks. Suspensions and dismissals for drug use are becoming more prevalent at most private and public secondary schools. She reviewed the issues at Deerfield and need to be vigilant. A new organization, Fit-Out, will be on campus to discuss their program. DA is relying on older students to visit with younger ones to encourage intelligent choices.

DA Update

Amie Creagh, Dean of Students, gave an update on the start of school. She discussed the success of “dress-down” sit-down dinners to help with the pace of life. Related to the recent drug case, Amie reflected that Deerfield has really good kids and happy adults and that there is no crisis. Her office is trying to reach out to better educate students about substances and making the right decisions. The Deans have received support from a number of parents.

The question was asked how the DPN help. Good communication between DA and the parents was a top priority. The administration will work with David Thiel’s office to get emails out to parents as soon as appropriate.
Admissions

Pam Safford, Director of Admissions, gave an overview of the make-up of the Class of 2018. Given the desire of the Academy to reduce the size of the freshman class from 125 to 100, she indicated the difficulty of building a class with a desired mix of geography, cultural diversity, athletes, performing artists, specialized interests, siblings and legacies. She has received good feedback from the Academy for the enthusiasm and intellect of the students.

Nominating

Karen Wood, VP Nominating, reviewed the process for adding new members. She asked that anyone with ideas for new members and officers forward names throughout the school year.

Campus Events

Louise York, VP Campus Events, reported on the Farmers Market scheduled for Saturday, efforts to date for the Class of 2015 Graduation Dinner, and the Jingle Mingle scheduled for this December. Serena Bowman has agreed to take on the Jingle Mingle responsibility.

Communications

Betsy Swindell, VP Communications, reported on the Link and her efforts to reduce the number of articles required to be posted for the Winter and Spring. She is still looking for two volunteers to help with writing and encouraged all to forward ideas for future articles.

First Link

Lesley Koeppel reported that 179 families of new students were matched with “experienced” parents. There were many favorable responses. Receptions were also held in a number of cities for new families and their students. A Parent Panel was held on move-in day for all new parents. Eight current parents gave comments on their experiences and answered questions.

Development Office

The group welcomed CJ Menard, the new Dean of Development. He briefly discussed the last year of the Imagine Deerfield Capital Campaign and asked how he can help the DPN.
The next meeting of the DPN is tentatively scheduled for January 17, 2015 from 12:00 – 2:00 pm at Deerfield. Specifics will be communicated once confirmed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meredith Lytle, Temporary Recording Secretary