

SJP Alumni Board of Governors
Minutes of September 20, 2011 Meeting

I. Call to Order/Opening Prayer

President Peter Della Porta '75 called the meeting to order and invited Tom Harrington, Jr. '43 to give the opening prayer.

II. Introduction of the new Executive Committee

The new Executive Committee was introduced by President Peter Della Porta and Andy Lynch was thanked for his service as President last year.

President: Peter Della Porta '75

Vice President: Ed Foy '75

Treasurer: Steve Fera '82

Secretary: Stephen Kriz '92

Immediate Past President: Andy Lynch '85

Moderator: Bill Avington '90

III. Minutes of April Meeting

Minutes of the April 19, 2011 meeting were submitted by Secretary, Stephen Kriz, a motion to accept duly made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Steve Fera presented the report. At this time there are no funds in the account.

IV. Guest Speakers

Joe Ruggieri, Esq. '69, Chairman, Board of Trustees

Joe shared with the BOG the fact that Principal Michael Gomez would be finishing the current academic year at the Prep and would then be moving into the role of Principal at the new Cristo Rey school in Philadelphia. Former Board member John McConnell '70 is President of this new institution. Joe also mentioned that the current Board of Trustees is made up of 15 alumni and 10 parents of students.

Joe spoke of the importance of SJP alumni and how many have risen to prominent positions throughout the country, including Dr. Von Eschenbach, Col. Brian Reed and Mayor Michael Nutter. He went on to discuss the importance of the Annual Fund and that currently, 60% of the money raised comes from alumni. However, the percentage of alumni who contribute needs to be increased citing that only 20% of alumni contribute to the Annual Fund.

Rev. George W. Bur, S.J. '59, President

Fr. George Bur recognized Michael Gomez for his service to the Prep and spoke of his commitment to fill the Principal position with the best candidate possible. He also discussed that he has been working on the goals for the new strategic plan, "Go Further Still." He mentioned that he is focused on engaging every student to get involved, especially those freshmen who are on the "fringes."

He has initiated a master site plan to evaluate the Gesu Church, parking, 17th Street convent and other physical plant issues. Fr. Bur described the Magis program, where 20

5th grade students are brought in from the neighborhood, with the goal of having 6-8 matriculate at the Prep. He concluded by thanking the alumni and specifically the BOG for their support and expressing his hope for a more lively and active development program.

Michael Gomez, Principal

Principal Gomez began by announcing that AP students had a pass rate of 84%, the highest ever at the Prep. In addition, this year, the school has eight National Merit Semi-Finalists. On the staffing front, Fr. Frank Skechus, S.J., has retired and John Connelly has been hired as a new science teacher. Dave Skowronski has resigned from the counseling department and Dr. Aaron Pollock, who had completed his clinical at the Prep, has been hired. In addition, a second Mandarin Chinese teacher has been hired. Brother Bob Carson has moved to the counseling department, giving it a total of 5 counselors. Dr. John Berna is now focused on working with students who need additional academic assistance.

Mr. Gomez then discussed his decision to leave the Prep for the new Cristo Rey High School in Philadelphia. He described the school's model of educating young men and women who are from disadvantaged backgrounds in urban areas. After much prayer and thought, he decided this move would provide a new challenge for his career. He thanked the Prep for the opportunity to serve as Principal.

Russell Gartz, Chief Development Officer

Russell thanked the Board Members for coming out in such large numbers and discussed how they had a great challenge in front of them. He is looking forward to working with the BOG to increase participation in the school's development efforts.

V. Role of Board of Governors

Peter Della Porta '75 discussed new efforts this year to have at least two class agents to represent each class. In addition, plans are to institute decade chairs to ensure that those classes have appropriate representation. New initiatives will have BOG members act as liaisons for Prep events as well as the establishment of a ceremonial team for funerals. Ambassadors are also needed to work with admissions.

The alumni website will be upgraded this year and we plan to use more technology at future meetings in the way of phone and video conferencing. The meetings for this year will be November 14, February 8 and April 17. Peter also presented Bill Avington '90 as the new moderator of the Alumni Board of Governors.

VI. Committee Reports

Prep Fund

Bernie Kueny, Esq. '79, chair of the Prep Fund and former BOG President, described the role of the BOG through the history of the Prep and how tuition has always been subsidized to a degree. He asked the BOG members to commit to participate in the Phonathon one evening and to recruit 10 additional alumni as well.

Reunion Weekend

The 2011 Reunion weekend will be held October 14-15 for the classes of 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006.

Alumni/Father-Son Communion Breakfast

The 2012 breakfast will be held on Sunday, February 26. Nominations are being accepted for Alumnus of the Year and the Schnorr Awards.

Prep Classic

Ed Foy announced that this year's Prep Classic netted \$40,000 and was a tremendous success. The 2012 Prep Classic will be played at Philadelphia County Club.

Hawkktion

Stephen Kriz '92 announced that this year's Hawkktion will be held on April 21, 2012. We are looking to significantly increase alumni participation in this event and expect the BOG to assist with this effort.

Prep at the Shore

This was a successful event held this past summer at the Deauville Inn in Strathmere. We are hoping to build on this success for next summer.

VII. Old/New Business

Admissions: Open House will be held on November 6. Alumni are needed to assist that day.

Taggart Speaker Series: Wes Moore will speak at The Prep on October 6.

Mentoring Program: Amy Romm from College Counseling Department is looking to connect current students with alumni. Eric Cahill '99 has offered to assist in this matter.

Career Day: This event has not occurred in several years and there is interest among the BOG to develop this program again.

VIII. Closing Prayer

Matt Battipaglia '01 led the closing prayer

The attendance list is attached. The meeting began at 7:15 p.m. and ended at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on November 14, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen J. Kriz '92
Secretary