Feb

UME Preparatory Academy Mission Statement

UME Preparatory Academy exists to produce college and work ready graduates and to offer parents enhanced opportunities as their child's first and best teachers to strengthen their families as they exercise greater influence over the spiritual, intellectual, and emotional growth of their children.

Parent Affairs Committee Minutes 2/10/2015

Attendees: Denise McConnell, Robin Ruthford, Dr. Brance Barker, Kat Pilson, Brandy Low, Susanne Tatro, and Karen Schuch

Anthony Hunt was also present.

Absent: Tanya Archer, Sally Hansen, Kristyl Burkey, Sarah Milem, Rachel Simmons, Mr. Mike Spurlock, and Dani Barker

Minutes Approved: Minutes for January 2015 and February 2015 will need approval in the next PAC meeting.

Minutes taken by Brandy Low in Kristyl Burkey's absence.

Welcome: Denise: (5 min)

- Everyone welcomed and Denise explained that two of our PAC members (Kristyl Burkey and Dani Barker) had undergone surgery within the week. She made mention of the other members unable to be in attendance.

Results from the Parent Equipping Program Survey and other school business: Dr. Barker: (1 hour 15 minutes)

- All comments/ data have now been processed in order to see strengths and areas of concern.
- Ratings pertaining to the parent equipping program were shared in detail.
- PAC is doing a great job impacting families. Keep up the good work moving forward.
- PAC to think on ways to improve on establishing relationships between parents and teachers and parent to parent, build community.
- PAC felt that adding a comments section in each area of future surveys would make it more user friendly for families to easily share their concerns as broken down by topic or focus area instead of as it is currently set up with only one opportunity at the end.
- After looking over the survey – PAC posed the question: Are we able to carry out the original vision of the school?
- Dr. Barker stated he has been visiting the charter approx. every 3 months to see if and how we are in line with the charter. He felt in many ways we are in line with the charter but not completely.
- PAC discussed the immediate need for constructive opportunities where families/parents can bring their questions and concerns. (Ex: town hall meetings, surveys, and focus groups)

- It was suggested by PAC to split the constructive opportunities into grade level groups (K-6 and 7-12). These would be focused by academic or other. Dr. Barker said that at least two opportunities will be set up on the calendar to address these areas.
- Karen Schuch asked if UME was changing to a STEM school. Dr. Barker said that we would be integrating some STEM, but we are not moving toward a complete STEM campus
- Karen Schuch asked if UME had a formal exit interview procedure/questionnaire. She stated that as families leave we are not collecting vital information to help us make positive changes to our school. Dr. Barker said no, a personal exit interview or questionnaire was not in place. He stated that Sally Hansen and Shannon Horton are over this area, and we will look into it. PAC felt that exit interviews conducted by our team would be more effective in gathering helpful information from families.
- PAC discussed pressing concerns with disruptive behavior in the classrooms (all grade levels) and the need to provide better support to the classroom teachers.
- Dr. Barker shared the checklist for kitchen use.
- Dr. Barker went over the UME Chain of Command/Functional Responsibilities document – giving specific names and details
- Dr. Barker gave out the New Family Information sheet – Susanne Tatro will contact the families and welcome them.

Calendar of events: PAC Leaders: (30min)

- Spring Semester Calendar:
    1. February 7th- We had a very successful Daddy Daughter Dance.
    2. Feb 12th Parent Snack and Chat – Social Media Roundtable
    - Discussed the possibility of PAC providing an informational sheet at the Snack and Chats to inform parents of our PAC roles in the school.
    3. Tuesday Feb 24th and Thursday Feb 26th will be meetings for 8th-10th graders for High School planning.
    4. April 11th – Parent University/Family Picnic
    - We discussed the possibility of childcare, bounce houses or a movie, and a meal at the end of Parent University to take the place of a family picnic.

Old Business: (10 minutes):

- The Google doc was discussed. There were several items discussed along with many ideas. Kristyl will be compiling the items into a single google doc in order to organize ideas and garner input form all PAC members. This will allow us to brainstorm before meetings and vote on solutions at meetings. Thus streamlining the genius of the PAC. We will be sent an email with the link to the Google doc regarding the business below.
- These items include:
    1. Reviewing the discrepancies in the PAC by-laws
    2. Ideas for a girls' mentoring group
    3. Solutions for no more town hall meetings, How to make parents feel more involved

4. Set time and date for PAC members to represent at pick up and drop off. How do we have more of a face to face presence with the parents and in the school?
5. Volunteer schedules? i.e. set copying times etc.
6. Volunteer opportunities for parents with preschoolers and working parents
7. Need to see more of a plan for High School. i.e. 4 year plan in advance, what to expect, applying for college, honors programs, STEM, dual credit, course descriptions with handout. How to get info out NOW.
8. Do a beginning of school family event August 1, including clothes closet
9. Filling open PAC position for Parent mentoring
10. April 11th ideas
11. Offer more record of sessions and materials available to parents, more online resources to get involved, PAC networking
12. Ways for parents in the school to get to know one another. Build community.

Please Note:

- The officers meeting will take place on line most likely. Date and time still TBD.
- Dr. Barker asked that a correction be made to the minutes from January 13th.
  He asked that the amendment say, "We are researching how to intentionally integrate the STEM program into UME Prep."

Approved 3-17-15

K Barkey