



**Canterbury Parent Association Meeting**  
**Gates Lecture Hall – High School**  
**September 14, 2023**

1. **Present:** Courtney Sloan, Danielle Karr, Natalie Chenoweth, Jill Surendran, David Jackson, Mike Landgraf, Melina Perry, Ashli Wharton, Lincoln Gray, Todd Jacobs, Kate Estrada, Nicole Elser, Catherine Chan-Moy, Kristen Boon, Carole Kinne, Rece Gilbert, Poga Ravindra, Stephanie Foote, Shara Cunningham, Peter Nilsson, Misha Boone, Glenda Starks, Cathy Diamante, Martha Ellis, Diana Diep, Felicia Freeland, Allisun Bredemeyer, Nicole Langel, Crystal Vann Wallstrom, Kristin Rahn, Caribbea Danko-McGhee

Meeting Start Time: 8:31am

2. **PA Executive Committee Introductions**

Danielle Karr, Courtney Sloan, Natalie Chenoweth, Jill Surendran

3. **Todd Jacobs – Board of Trustees Chair**

- Please see PDF link for slide show presentation.
- Discussed general overview of the Board as well as main functions of Trustees (Strategic, Fiduciary and Head of School).
- Explained role of Canterbury School Foundation, Inc.
- Discussed endowment benchmarking and importance of growing Canterbury's endowment.
- Explained the role of each of the six committees (Finance, Governance, Facilities, Development, Admissions and Marketing, Head of School Support and Evaluation).
- Talked about Canterbury's revenue, admissions and marketing, student: teacher ratio as well as school expenses.
- Question / Answer
  - i. **Q:** Approx 81% of schools' revenue comes from tuition, is that typical across other independent, private schools?
  - ii. **A:** 81% is net tuition. Schools with larger endowments have been taking pressure off of their tuition by taking an 8%-10% endowment draw which goes towards tuition, as opposed to Canterbury's 4% draw. Goal is to build our endowment.
  - iii. **Q:** Is the board looking for new committee members?
  - iv. **A:** Yes, the board is always looking for committee members. Typically, committees are filled with non-board people who are active in the Canterbury community. Once a person has served a year on a committee, then the Head of that committee evaluates who has contributed and been active/engaged in that committee. These people are then considered for Board of Trustee positions. Development and Finance are looking for new committee members. If interested in joining, contact Todd Jacobs or David Jackson.
  - v. **Q:** Is there certain criteria necessary for being on the board?
  - vi. **A:** No, but skillsets are looked at to determine best spot on a committee to serve. Currently looking for more lower school parents to join. Look at how active a person has been in the school to see if they are a suitable fit for the board. Best practice is to have a board member who is not associated with Canterbury to offer outside perspective.

#### **4. David Jackson – Head of School**

- Thanked Todd Jacobs for his time spent over the summer helping on EC grounds; thanked PA Exec Team for efforts put forth.
- Highlighted physical changes to the campus with arts building underway; teachers and students alike are excited for the new year.

#### **5. Nicole Justice – High School Director**

- Last year the high school spent time reviewing student mental wellness and how to help students balance artist, athlete and scholar.
- New schedule this year includes two block days (Wednesday and Thursday). Positive feedback from students.
- New uniform policy.
- Homecoming weekend 9/15/23 starts with Cav Games and Homecoming dance on Saturday.
- Sources of Strength (SOS) Team on campus – nationally recognized program. Canterbury has 30 student peer leaders who are trained, and their job is to identify and reach out to any student that is not feeling ok. Moto is “It is ok to not feel ok”. Their ‘Kindness and Compassion Campaign’ will kick off the start of October. Goal is that every student feels connected. School counselor is available to all high school students.

#### **6. Lincoln Gray – Middle School Director**

- This is Mr. Gray’s third year as Middle School Director
- Theme for this year is “Leading with Kindness” and finding ways to identify how that is happening globally as well as on our campus, and in our Fort Wayne community.
- High school students will work with middle school students to think of ways to identify moments of kindness.
- Athletics: Participation this fall is at record high
- Arts: Renae Butler is reaching out to parents who are artists and inviting them to lead enrichments; Number of middle school musical participants continues to grow.
- Academics: Shakespeare class has returned to 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum; science electives courses include marine and vet focus.

#### **7. Mike Landgraf – Lower School Director**

- This is Mr. Landgraf’s fourth year as Lower School Director.
- LS striving this year for care, hope, engagement and joy. If kids feel loved and cared for, they are more apt to be successful. We achieve this through small classroom size. Spark curiosity in classroom by making learning fun.
- Maker space with Mrs Madarang was revamped.
- New program initiative called ‘Adopt a Staff Member’. Each classroom has been assigned a staff member who is invited into the classroom on their birthday, and during class celebrations. Everyone plays a vital role in our community.
- Theme for this year ‘Leading with Kindness’, with slogan ‘Work Hard, Be Kind’.
- LS student leadership: Each fourth-grade classroom will be LS leaders for three months; want to be intentional with how to foster leadership skills in our younger students.

#### **8. Dr. Elly Maconochie – EC Director**

- Dr Maconochie was ill, Mr. Jackson reported that EC is off to an outstanding start in part to the dedicated teachers and opportunities provided to our students.

## **9. Danielle Karr – PA President**

- Introduced Ashli Wharton as PA liaison and thanked her for all her efforts.
- Encouraged all parents to reach out to the PA if they have any questions [pa@canterburyschool.org](mailto:pa@canterburyschool.org)
- Voluntary Membership Fee: Modeled after other private schools' parent associations. Goal is to set budget and maintain consistency. Parents are encouraged to submit all receipts related to school events. PA membership fee will help pay for Friends of Faculty meals, fall family picnic, LS & MS Dad's & Special Friends Breakfast/ Dinner, HS finals refreshment table, sock hop, faculty and staff birthday cart, 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation trolley.
- PA newsletter will come out quarterly.

## **10. Courtney Sloan – PA Vice President**

- Volunteer Opportunities
  - i. Fall Family Picnic (Sept 29) – signup will be emailed out to all parents.
  - ii. Poinsettia Sale – mid November
  - iii. Cav Clothing – help needed with pop events, set up and tear down.
  - iv. Canterbury Cares (Nov 11) – cleanup of school grounds, entire family is invited to participate.

## **11. Natalie Chenoweth – PA Treasurer**

- **Ways to contribute to PA**
  - i. Amazon Smile has been discontinued.
  - ii. Kroger Community Rewards (Enrollment Code: NT898)  
<https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>
  - iii. SCRIP | Raise Right [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com)
  - iv. PA intends to make a donation to the endowment.

## **12. Jill Surendran – PA Secretary**

- **Upcoming Events**
  - i. HS Parent Mingle : Sept. 16 7:30pm – 9:30pm at Pint & Slice Alley
  - ii. New Parent Coffee : Sept 27 8am – 9:30am at Lili's Garden (EC campus)
  - iii. Fall Family Picnic : Sept 29, 4pm – 8pm at HS Campus – division wide
  - iv. MS Parent Party : Oct 26, 6pm – 8pm Middle School Library

Meeting Finish Time: 9:37am