

## **Parents Association Committee Meeting Minutes**

### **April 14, 2025**

#### **Overview**

The Parent Association Committee Meeting held on April 14 focused on key updates and challenges faced by the school, featuring discussions on recent events, financial sustainability, and community engagement strategies. Highlights included the approval of March meeting minutes, the redirection of funds from a dog eyeball kits initiative to a tennis program at Augusta Health, and the rescheduling of the Mom-Son Nerf experience. New board representative Pastor Allen George emphasized the importance of transparency and communication with parents while addressing governance issues and financial needs, including a potential 10% tuition increase. Parents expressed concerns about budget sustainability and discussed shifting their focus from problems to opportunities, suggesting outreach to local churches and enhancing fundraising efforts. The meeting also underscored the importance of positive messaging about the school in the community and improving communication about events. Action items included follow-up meetings to refine fundraising ideas and strategies for better advertising of events to the parent body.

#### **Notes**

##### **PAC Updates**

- March meeting minutes were approved
- Gaga ball pit funding redirected to tennis program at Augusta Health starting Thursday
- Mom-Son Nerf experience rescheduled from April 26 to May 10 at Crossroads (cost: \$1,000)
- Daddy-Daughter Dance was very successful with 80+ attendees
- Future plans to make events more inclusive for all family
- Fall fundraiser planned: family-style cookbook with parent-submitted recipes

##### **Board Updates and Communication**

- Pastor Allen George introduced as new board representative (in position since Thursday)
- Board working to improve transparency and communication with parents
- Board actively addressing governance structure issues with Crossroads Church
- School sustainability being evaluated; definitive answers expected within two weeks
- Meetings planned with deacons, Pastor Heath, and teachers
- 10% tuition increase appears necessary unless large donors are secured
- Board actively reaching out to previous large donors who had stopped contributing
- Parent volunteers needed for fundraising committee (led by Tamara and Allison)

##### **Financial Challenges Discussion**

- Questions raised about exact financial needs for security, cafeteria, and other services
- Parents requested specific numbers about financial goals and current status
- Discussion about how many teachers plan to return next year (information pending)
- Sustainability is the key focus - creating a model that works without relying on large donations
- First 3-5 years acknowledged as most challenging for any organization
- Parents discussing how to shift from 'problem statement' to 'opportunity statement'
- Current tuition alone cannot sustain the budget while maintaining mission of accessibility

### **Fundraising and Church Outreach Ideas**

- Suggestion to approach local churches for support, especially those with students at ACA
- Idea to create videos with student testimonials to share impact of Christian education
- Parents volunteered to assist with fundraising efforts and donor relations
- Discussion about tracking which churches ACA students attend to target outreach
- Proposal to have staff and parents jointly approach churches for maximum impact
- Consider part-time solutions for services like cafeteria rather than complete elimination

### **Community Engagement Strategies**

- Need for professional presentation materials when approaching churches for support
- Parents volunteered to share personal stories of how ACA has positively impacted families
- Examples shared of children developing meaningful prayer lives through ACA
- Discussion of how to balance transparency about challenges while maintaining positive community presence
- Parents encouraged to wear ACA shirts in public to create conversation opportunities
- Need to define clear product/experience for prospective families despite current uncertainty

### **Parent Involvement and Communication**

- Parents encouraged to maintain positive messaging about ACA in the community
- Important to shield children from adult concerns about school's future
- Suggestion to approach families who have withdrawn to understand their concerns
- Parents recognized crisis has created stronger bonds within school community
- Emphasis that day-to-day student experience remains excellent despite administrative challenges
- Need to focus on what can be controlled: positive messaging and parent involvement

### **Communication Improvements**

- Confusion about where to find information about school events (Facebook, Monday Message, etc.)
- Parents requested better advertising of events like Bingo Night and McDonald's fundraiser

- Request for printed flyers to be sent home with students for important events
- Suggestion to consolidate event information on school website
- Meeting adjourned with commitment to continue discussions in a follow-up meeting

## **Action Items**

### **Pastor Allen George**

- Meet with deacons and Pastor Heath
- Meet with teachers to get their feedback
- Follow up with finance committee about providing exact financial numbers for parents
- Continue reaching out to potential donors

### **PCA Leadership**

- Arrange meeting with Tamara and Allison to discuss fundraising ideas
- Share parent feedback with board
- Follow up with board about better advertising for school events
- Schedule follow-up parent meeting ('part two')

### **Parents**

- Share positive experiences about ACA on social media and with potential new families
- Participate in upcoming fundraising events like McDonald's night and Bingo night