



**Science Leadership Academy Home School Association Meetings 2023/24
Minutes, November 15, 2023 Meeting via Zoom**

In attendance:

Board Members:	Admin/Faculty
Daphne Hawkins Parker (President)	Chris Lehman (Principal)
Marc Henley (1 st Treasurer)	Zoe Ziswick (Faculty HSA appointee)
Linda Maldonado (Family Engagement Liaison)	
JJ Shirley (Freshman Parent Rep)	
Kinshasa Hunter (Community Member)	
Julie Diana (Community Member)	
Monika Jost (Recording Secretary)	

1. Introduction

- Costa Rica trip meeting is occurring in parallel, therefore many will attend that.

2. Principal’s report]

- The first quarter is nearly finished with grades about to be posted. Based on the grade reports, this year’s course pass rate (99%) is the highest since the pandemic.
- SLA adopted a new software to track internships, which had a rocky launch since it had to be adapted to the SLA environment. The internships was the slowest SLA activity to return after the pandemic.
- SLA admissions are on hold due to changes in the district admissions rules. This year, the PSD will first determine applicants’ eligibility for SLA; once they submit the data to schools on 11/27, the interview process can be opened. The delay has compressed the timeline from the usual seven to about four weeks, with the holidays in between, which will be challenging for the staff. SLA received about 2000 applications for the next year, and Mr. Lehman is hoping for better communication of the district with the applicants so that only those apply who qualify for SLA. Interviews will be conducted via zoom to save the costs for keeping the school open over the weekend.
- The Senior breakfast took place today and was well received.
- A winter formal is planned for freshmen and sophomores in January.
- The college application process is in full swing, and acceptances are received.
- A staff holiday potluck gathering is planned for 12/20; This would be an opportunity for the HSA to contribute, e.g., a sheetcake.

Treasurer report (Part 1)

- HAS budget
 - Beginning balance of \$43K
 - Income from HSA dues, fuel-the-rocket donations and and other donations, YTD \$4K

- HSA expenses: Subscriptions, fee due to credit card dispute, will be refunded since resolved, fiscal sponsorship, total expense YTD \$7.6K
- Principals's fund:
 - Beginning balance \$48K
 - Income from Fuel-the-rocket fundraiser
 - There is a shortfall for covering Jeremy Spry's salary, but Educon usually raises a substantial amount
- Request for a classroom speaker for Mr. K. (author visit for \$300)
- Mr. Lehman mentioned that an SLA parent with more than one child at SLA offered to donate up to \$10K as a matching challenge; suggestion to use this to drive the Fuel-the-rocket campaign to close the shortfall
- Vote to approve classroom speaker for \$300 fee
 - Motion passed, approved unanimously

3. President's Report

- The new HSA website (slahsa.org), designed by an alum parent (Lou) for a discounted fee, is live. It was designed to be easy to navigate and mobile-friendly, with contact information for board members.
- Erin and Daphne plan on updating the site weekly and will serve as contacts for posting content. They plan on working with the school staff for content.
- Suggestion to set up an online school store on the website.
- The current budget link needs to be updated; it currently links to Masterman's budget
- The website maintenance agreement (annual fee of \$1320, which includes analytics) needs to be voted on; proposal to vote on paying for the first year and then re-evaluate.
- Vote to approve agreement for website maintenance for 2023/24
 - Motion passed, approved unanimously

4. Treasurer's Report (Part 2)

- Financial projections for HSA Budget
 - Projected income from dues, silent auction, Fuel-the-Rocket campaign, Educon, Brasken grant, totaling \$107K
 - Projected expenses for program director salary (Jeremy), Website design & maintenance, mini courses, sports, clubs, fundraising expenses, fiscal sponsorship (until 501c3 status restored) totaling \$93,370
 - Motion to approve budget passed, approved unanimously

5. Other Updates

- HSA is sponsoring a hot cocoa bar for students on Friday, 12/08 during lunch

- Educon will be held on 2/02-2/04. Volunteer sign-ups will be solicited soon. The session proposals were reviewed and approved; preparations have moved on to working on the logistics.
- The HSA board still looking for a VP (future president) to take over when Daphne leaves.
- The school district has modified the fall conference from three half-days to one full day on 11/27 (Monday) after the Thanksgiving break. To accommodate parents, the teachers have changed their hours from 12-7 pm. Signups will be sent out on 11/16. JJ Shirley suggested to serve coffee and snacks for the teachers, perhaps in the front lobby and will reach out over the break to organize.

6. Adjournment