

UA Alumni Association Meeting – 11/10/2021

Present: Bill Hall, Jack Graf, Sam McCoy, Nic Fortkamp, Gary Nack, Alice Finley, Megan Lewis Potts
Abby Vitali, Krish Mawalker, Caroline Langmeyer, Natalie Harrison, Kate Mason, Luca Nogueira,
Elizabeth Goth

Guest: Scott McKenzie, UA School Board Member

Absent: Tony Callander, Sarah Eagleson, Beth Wroe, Jennie Ravary, Doug Trotter,

September 15th Meetings Minutes

Approved by Consensus

Financial update:

No changes, Megan Potts has no changes from our last meeting.

Homecoming 2020:

No updates at this time.

Ambassador Program Update:

The students started meeting a month ago to brainstorm projects and create UAAAA T-shirts. On Thursday we are having another meeting to talk about the students' passion project. The UAAA Page on the website is updated with all of Ambassador Photos.

Staff Interview Update: Abby Vitali:

Abby interviewed Mr. Orloff, Sports Science Teacher (he teaches sports and athlete's anatomy and body).

Mr. Orloff is one of two teachers that have been at UAHS the longest. Abby wrote an article about his time at UAHS and Catherine will edit the story. It will be included in an email blast to alumni and posted on the website. Abby's favorite story highlights: the empty payphone space remains in the building and he met his wife at UAHS!

School Board Member Update - Scott Mckenzie:

Background- Scott joined the UA Education Foundation board a while ago – then became Chair. He has two children that have recently graduated from UAHS.

Construction update-

- Still on time and on budget with all construction and a some buildings are already open for students and staff
- Scott will see high school progress this week in person.
- The walls are going up. Spring will hopefully be wrapping it up and then this summer we will move in with furniture and staff. They will be starting next year in the new high school.
- Construction will continue as the tear down the old HS and build athletic fields.

- Overall, all is going really well.

DEI Updates:

Matthew Boaz has been hired as the new Director of DEI for the school district. We hope to have him at a UAAA board meeting to speak as it is important and exciting.

Update on COVID –currently in a hybrid mode:

- Multiple matrix plans are being designed for in person and at home learning (cases, positive rates, etc.). The plans will drive district plans for learning.
- We want our kids to get back full time because it is the best way to educate and socialization can occur. There are many factors that will determine how to keep children and staff safe.
- Scott speculates that the county will be in purple and Dewine might close schools and go to EDL.

Students mention that there is some unrest at the high school in regards to safety. Also, some students are convinced that this is a non-issue but many kids are worried. Kids see that the school is trying to protect – but the measures are not satisfactory.

Director's Report:

Alice encourages everyone to attend a school board meeting if they can to stay up to date about what is going on in the district and how we can support and communicate through the alumni association

There was a question about the role of the administration (eg. Superintendent) as opposed to the School Board Members. Alice and Scott shared a quick overview of the roles & responsibilities of each.

Awards Program:

A group met to discuss the idea of adding an award to honor an inspirational young alumni. This award will be added to the Outstanding and Distinguished alumna awards that we present during the Alumni Open House during the 4th of July celebrations. We may also try to present the awards in the spring during the senior honors assembly or other event where students can be present.

Reunion update

A group met to discuss the role the UAAA plays in helping classes with reunions. We will add information to our website for planners to reference (it will include a list of venues, suggestions from other classes, information from Civic about parade, etc.). We would like to establish relationships with the planners to make sure they are aware of ways they can stay engaged with each other and give back to current students. A goal for 2021 would be to attend reunion activities and introduce ourselves.

An idea was shared that we could plan annual Town Halls for class leaders/reunion planners.

Mrs. McKinney project:

The UAAA continues to help a retired teacher, Mrs. McKinney find students who wrote letters to themselves 60 years ago.

Opportunity to Help:

A number of photography students are honored each year and have their photos framed and hung in the halls of the high school. They will not be moving these pictures to the new school. We will be helping by reaching out to these alumni to let them know that they can pick up their pictures before the current high school is torn down.

Communications:

We hope to work with WARL students to share stories. For example, we'd like to see Luca and Kate work on a story about the ambassadors for change and the grant that the UA+Ed gave to make it happen. This could be shared with alumni to demonstrate the impact that UA+Ed makes.

UA+Ed:

Alice shared that the UA+Ed is going through strategic visioning with Mollard Consulting. A survey was sent ahead of time and made it apparent that the UAAA is an important part of the UA+Ed and that we should continue to stay aligned.

Many 2020 UA+Ed grants have been COVID-19 related and/or focused on student and staff wellbeing. We've also given many grants to support DEI initiatives.

An example of a grant is the Video enhancement initiative – We paid for advanced iPads that allow all the elementary schools to create daily videos that keep students connected and engaged.

The UA+Ed is launching a Teacher and Staff Thank-a-thon. Parents and students can submit messages of thanks that we will deliver with sweet treats.

Homecoming \$20 for 2020

For the first time, UA+Ed reached out to alumni to ask for a small donation to celebrate Homecoming. \$1,688 was raised. 69 total donors, included 40 first time donors. We also sold 62 UAAA shirts.

Remembering Homer Mincy

This former superintendent who founded the UA+Ed Foundation in 1985 passed away recently. His family asked that donations be made to UA+Ed. We have a fund in his name that supports professional development.

Budget 2021

The UA+Ed 2021 budget will reflect our commitment to support the efforts of the UAAA.

New Alumni Members:

Jack Graf talked about the nomination process and gave an update.

Catherine presented nominations for 2021 officers as follows.

- Jack Graf - President
- Catherine Kennedy - Vice President
- Nic Fortkamp - Secretary

A motion was made to approve this slate by Sam McCoy, Gary Nack seconded the motion.
The motion was approved.