

**REDWOOD DAY SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of General Meeting of January 25, 2007**

Attending:

Board of Trustees: Joe di Prisco, Mike Reira, Robert Menicucci  
Others: Ellen Jaffe, RDSPA President, as well as various members of the RDSPA Board, RDSPA committee chairs and general parent body

1. Welcome

Ellen welcomed those persons attending. Self-introductions by RDSPA Board members, committee chairs and Board of Trustees members in attendance followed.

2. Auction

Hilary Cooper reviewed details of this year's auction and announced that portions of the auction would occur online for the first time this year.

3. Joe di Prisco

Joe expressed his appreciation for the work of the RDSPA. After announcing that he had agreed to serve as RDS auctioneer again this year, he ruminated upon the importance of music and magic in life. He then reviewed the primary responsibility of the Board of Trustees for the financial health of the school, followed by a general description of the crafting of a budget which would limit tuition increases while maintaining the financial viability of the school. He emphasized the importance of maintaining economic diversity while providing an academically rigorous and developmentally oriented education. He closed by describing the on-going attempts to make Redwood Day High School a reality.

4. Robert Menicucci

Bob, chair of the Trustees' Finance Committee, emphasized the excellent financial position of the school which he described as the result of the successful balancing of multiple competing objectives. He noted that the contribution made by volunteer work was critical to the financial health of the school. He stated that despite changing economic conditions and a significant physical expansion, the school has experienced positive cash flow for 11 years straight. Bob then reviewed the budget in detail, including revenue sources (88% from tuition) and expenditures.

## 5. Questions

A variety of questions were asked by those in attendance. Mike, Joe and Bob provided answers. Questions asked related to future tuition increases (6% - 7% yearly), maximum class size (20-22 for K-8), student body size (currently 355, maximum 387 by permit), benefit of a high school for K-8 (potential interaction of students at various grade levels), reality of an RDS high school (currently in negotiations for a "beautiful site" but came close twice in past year on other sites without success) and effect of the end of a rapid growth phase upon K-8 (stability will lead to better ability to plan).

## 6. Mike

Mike commented upon the job of the Trustees to ask the "big" questions as seen from "30,000 feet". He then introduced Martha Shepardson-Killam, the interim head of the Middle School, who described her joy in working with middle school students who are in a period of growth and change, looking for their "best self". Mike then discussed admissions (going well), Randi Protopappas (leaving at the end of this academic year) and the search to replace her, head lice (no nit/no lice policy is being retained at RDS) and search for parent volunteers for "nit-picking", and diversity (ongoing quest).

## 7. Announcements

Ellen made announcements regarding scrip, the book club and the RDSPA survey.