McDONOGH PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Upper School Parents Association Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.

Mullan Board Room or Zoom

I. **Welcome:** Yelena Kholodenko, Chair
Kara DeOliveira, Vice Chair
Leslie McGuire, Parent Liaison

II. **Topic 1:** Merritt Livermore, Head of Upper School

Update on Upper School

- Introduced role
- Dean and new staff will be presented
- Overview / update of new dining service
- Football game themes presented for season
- Discussed US back to school 09/17 night and Freshman Meeting

III. **Topic 2:** Introduction of class Deans by Ned Courtemanche, Dean of Academics and Faculty Growth (powerpoint presentation)

- Introduced new dean, Hilary Felderstein as freshman dean
- Alex Garner, sophomore dean
- Constance Green, junior class dean
- Jen Little, senior class dean
- New staff introductions
- Hiring a year round process

IV. **Topic 3:** Overview of the Bias Framework by Enaye Englenton, Director of Equity and Inclusion (powerpoint presentation)

- Cultivate culture of belonging at McDonogh
- Ensuring access for all students by working with other team members / departments
- Presented results from Climate Survey administered to students in Spring 2026 - wanted transparency, accountability and proactive action w/ dialogue

- Enaye developed Belonging by Design for all faculty; training will be ongoing; currently only accessible to teachers via online webpage. Guides teachers through process of creating lessons and respond to needs that come up in classroom
- Enaye meeting with all upper school students re: core values
- The survey also showed students feel close to teachers, coaches, etc.
- Bias Behavior Framework reporting system - two systems in DASH: Conduct Report and Bias Incident Report
- Parents are able to see reports by clicking on DASH
- System is meant to track incidents, goes to Enaye, division head and grade level dean, based on students involved
- Grade level dean will take lead on contacting student(s) and families
- Two deans will investigate report
- Restorative accountability to repair and restore
- It's not completely anonymous since reported through DASH
- Other schools have similar systems
- Working with a group - Learning Courage to design system
- System is considered a "best practice"
- Minimal capital involved as school was able to utilize existing staff and tech systems to implement

Upcoming Events:

PARENT NEWS IS YOUR 'GO TO GUIDE'! Please remember to scroll down to the MPA section for events and ALSO **REMEMBER TO CLICK ON EACH DIVISION LINK FOR DIVISION INFORMATION!**

New this year: Sign up to receive the weekly McDonogh Minute text (link in the Parent news). The texts will be sent weekly with a quick list of everything you need to know for the week ahead.

Thursday, September 17: Upper School Back-to-School night/Used Uniform Sale.

Friday, September 18: Purple Friday casual dress.

Monday, September 21: School closed in observance of Yom Kippur.

Tuesday, September 22: Professional Development morning, two-hour delay

Monday, October 19: Faculty Professional Day. No classes for students.

Next USPA Meeting

Tuesday, November 10, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. Mullan Board Room & Zoom

USED UNIFORM SALES

Thursday, September 17, 5:00-6:15 p.m. (Upper school Back-to-School Night)
Monday, October 5, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 6, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

PARENT EDUCATION EVENT October 13 at Ceres Horn Theatre with higher education journalist and bestselling author of **Who Gets In and Why** and **Dream School: Finding the College That's Right for You** Jeff Selingo. Registration details will be shared soon.