

MEMORANDUM

To: SPS Form of 1970
From: Frank E. Kenison
Date: July 4, 2012
Re: Mini Reunion Weekend – June 8-10, 2012
Workshop on Unfinished Business

A survey for formmates was sent out prior to the weekend workshops. The results of that survey identified two pre-eminent topics: (1) Environmental Concerns; and (2) Economic/Income Inequality. These two topics were way out in front of other identified issues. The purpose of the survey was to try to identify something that our form could give back to the school and to the world at large. Both of the identified issues constitute large social problems with huge political implications.

A brief discussion ensued in which consensus developed that it would be extremely difficult to achieve a unified focus on any single global issue. Therefore, the discussions turned to articulating a narrower focus for the interests of this form and what we could do to contribute to the ongoing life of St. Paul's School.

George Host offered the proposal that we work to convince St. Paul's School to protect the 2000 acres which constitute its property holdings. This land is presently unprotected in any manner and George suggested that we develop a proposal to convince the Trustees and the Administration to formally protect a significant portion of the school's land for conservation purposes. This discussion led into a larger discussion of how do you leverage ideas with the Administration of the school when we constitute a constituency lacking in influence with the School. The parents of the students constitute the highest priority of constituencies because of the demands they place on the day-to-day operations of the school, faculty and administration. All of this led to a greater discussion about how do we get the school to listen to the alumni voice, in particular, a discreet subset of the alumni voice.

More importantly, the discussion then focused on strategies to connect the various constituencies of the school around the topic of environmental action and role of alumni service. Douglas Campbell, an alumni of Hotchkiss, explained how Hotchkiss has implemented a day of service in which parents, alumni, students and faculty all get together to work on discreet projects. The thought was that we could connect with different forms to create days of service across the country tied to our larger environmental goals.

Upon motion made, the gathering voted unanimously to begin planning a proposal to the school to create a day of service connecting all of the constituencies of the school community. Steve Crandall and others expressed interest in exploring several potential SPS day of service events to be held concurrently next spring at different venues.