

PTO Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2008

Lisa Donovan opened the meeting with prayer at 6:45.

Attendees

Susan Thomas, Lisa Donovan, Doraine Miller, Andy James, JoAnne VanBuskirk, Karen Bright, Steve Zlotnick, Dave Pickens, Andy Hagadorn, Sister Jeanne Marie, Krista Stewart, Kim Nieber, Laura Cote, Mike Smith, Brian Lay, Stacy Constantine, Marie Hercamp

2008-09 PTO Officers

Thank you to the following people who have been elected as PTO officers for the 2008-09 school year! You can contact them at anytime during the summer at officers@pto.smsbspa.org.

President: Lisa Donovan

Co-President: JoAnne VanBuskirk

Vice President: Steve Zlotnick

Co-Vice President: Andy James

Treasurer: Doraine Miller

Co-Treasurer: Karen Bright

Secretary: Susan Thomas

Co-Secretary: Bridget Bidonde

Plans for the 2008-09 School Year

Continuing Emphasis on Community Fundraisers

The School and the PTO are committed to growing the fundraisers that are directed toward the community, rather than our St. Mary's families. These fundraisers required dedicated parent volunteers to make them successful, but the target audience is largely aimed outside of our school community.

- Booster Club
- Harvest Hop
- Ziti Dinners
- Barnes & Noble Bookfair & Game Night (New Event) We go to Barnes and Nobles and a portion of all sales made during the time period we are at the event will be donated back to the school.
- Old Iron Spring Festival
- Golf Outing
- Garage Sale Weekend

Only Three Sales Fundraisers to Families of St. Mary's School

We all get frustrated by getting order forms home to buy stuff ... so we are committed to having only three "sales-type" fundraisers next year. These three were chosen because they are traditionally our top sellers. We hope that since these will be the only three, all St. Mary's families will work hard to make them successful!

- Entertainment Books (These will be distributed on "Meet the Teacher Night".
- Sally Foster (This will not be sent home on the first day of school this year)
- Magazine Sale

Other Fundraisers

Other fundraisers are still necessary, but these are the fun kind so we hope you'll participate:

- McDonald's Night
- Academic Triathlon
- Bounce Around Night
- Uniform Closet (not necessarily fun but certainly a great bargain for our parents!)

More Social Events

We would like to organize more social events next year to help our St. Mary's community get to know each other better and have fun together! Some of the ideas that we are considering are listed below ... some are old favorites, others are new. If you have any ideas for a social event, we really want to know! Please contact us at officers@pto.smsbspa.org or call Lisa Donovan at 885-3224.

- Breakfast with St. Nick
- Kid's Night Out
- Multiple Family Nights: Movie, Reading, Bowling, Dancing
- Social Events by Grade
- Other Ideas Welcome – please contact us if you have ideas!

Continued Support for Other Important Things ...

- Welcome to the Family Fall Picnic
- Thanksgiving Feast
- Catholic Schools Week Student Lunch, Teacher Lunch, Student Activity
- Teacher Wish Lists
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- School Yearbook
- Enrichment Programs

Other Ideas and Plans for the PTO Next Year

- We will ask for a PTO representative from each class who will attend meetings
- We may ask each class to sponsor one of the events or fundraisers listed above
 - Help to spread the work around
 - A fun project for the class to work on together
- We will create PTO email address lists for each class (without teachers listed) so that we don't need to forward messages through the room parents
- Most committee chairs have agreed to chair again

- The survey coming out on June 5th will list the committees that need chairs and solicit volunteers for all committees
- New for next year (survey will solicit help for these positions):
 - Fundraising Chair
 - Social Event Chair
 - Enrichment Chair
- These committees will be active over the summer:
 - Playground
 - Harvest Hop
 - Christmas Parade
 - Welcome Committee / Welcome to the Family Picnic
 - PTO Officers

Treasurer's Report

- Current Balance = \$30,000
- Fundraiser Status:
 - Golf Outing (6/2), Goal = \$12,000, Actual = \$11,000 (included in # above)
 - Old Iron Springs Festival (6/7-8), Goal = \$10,000 (PRAY FOR AWESOME WEATHER!!!)
 - Garage Sale (6/14), Goal = \$1,000
- Remaining Expenses
 - Yearbook (\$1,500), Field Day hats & lunch (\$1,500), remaining commitment (\$25,000)
- Goals for extra money beyond commitment (we won't know how much extra money is available until the end of the school year)
 - Playground: \$8,000
 - Christmas Parade Improvements: \$1,000
 - Color Laser Jet Printer: \$900
 - Baby Changing Station in bathroom: \$300 (for one)
 - School Sign: \$1,000
 - Carryover for 2008-09 commitment: \$5,000

New Business

- Krista Stewart and Kim Nieber agreed to run the ice cream social open to all St. Mary's family to thank them for their volunteer efforts this school year. This event will be held on June 18, 2008 in the cafeteria. Thank you Krista and Kim!
- PTO surveys will be coming out this week. One is based on the "Hot Lunch Program", and the other is a committee signup for next year and feedback regarding the PTO itself.
- A discussion came up about how to acclimate new families to the school. In the past, this was the role of the "Welcome Wagon" committee. We discussed whether we should host an orientation for new parents over the summer. We decided that the Welcome Wagon committee could handle the needs of new families, but that we should reach out to parents earlier in the summer and provide some guidance to the committee members about what to do in their role as a "mentoring family."

- The 4th grade earned the pizza party for the Booster Club Sales. The party will be held Friday, June 6, 2008.

Playground Committee:

- Jim Beaudoin and Bill Schultz have agreed to clear the site of the future playground for no charge.
- Laura Cote said they are in the process of applying for permits so no date can be set until the permits are in and all variances have been straightened out.
- Some people expressed concerned that no progress has been made to the playground and a timeline regarding the phases of the playground has not been submitted to the parents at this time.
- Laura Cote explained that if enough money is raised from OIS and the car raffle that it may be possible to have the first phase of the playground for the fall. (Please refer to the April Minutes)

Important Dates and Reminders (Events still Remaining)

June 12

Field Day & PTO Hot Dog Lunch
Burnt Hills Flag Day Parade, 7 p.m.

June 13

School ToolBox Order Forms Due
School Lunch and PTO surveys due

June 14

Ballston Spa Village Wide Garage Sale – St. Mary’s School
St. Mary’s Day at Rensselaer Honda – Car Raffle ticket sales

June 18

Ice Cream Social, 6-8 p.m.

June 20

Last Day of School!

June 25

Car Raffle Drawing

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45