

PTO Meeting

October 2, 2007

Present: Andy Hagadorn, Lisa Donovan, Steve Zlotnick, Susan Thomas, Bridget Bidonde, Doraine Miller, Sandra Pickens, Sister Jeanne Marie, Krista Stewart, Karen Bright, Bernadette Hagadorn, Karen Collins, Angela Murray-Gregory, Beth Mayer, Dennis Rau, Laura Cote, Madelyn Stiles, Joanne VanBuskirk, Allyson Ostrander, Julie La Goy, Jane Obrecht, Stacy Constantine, Theresa Faul, and Jill Fahey

Time: The meeting began at 6:55 P.M.

Agenda

- The meeting began in prayer by Andy Hagadorn.
- Steve Zlotnick nominated Andy Hagadorn for president and Doraine Miller seconded the nomination. Andy Hagadorn is the official president of the PTO.
- Steve nominated Lisa Donovan for Co-President and Laura Cote seconded the nomination. Lisa Donovan is the official Co-President of the PTO.
- Steve Zlotnick discussed how the PTO will provide each child with a cupcake on Halloween instead of a BBQ lunch.
- Steve also discussed how there will be a Thanksgiving Lunch this year sponsored by the PTO.
- Sponsored lunches will also be provided by the PTO for Catholic Schools Week and Field Day Lunches.

Treasurer's Report

Doraine Miller reported at 7:00 P.M. the treasurer's report which stated the following:

- The first installment of \$12,500 has been paid toward the PTO \$50,000 commitment to the school for the 2007-2008 school year.
- A savings account has been opened to keep the playground money separate from the PTO money to facilitate easier record keeping.
- The playground account currently has \$ 18,323.41.
- The PTO general account has \$ 5, 488.33.
- The uniform closet has generated \$ 525.00 to date.
- Sally Foster has made approximately \$ 4,000 to date.

Committees' Report

- Lisa Donovan spoke about getting more parent involvement for programs, fundraising and small events.

- She is asking that other people help to reach out to other people in getting volunteers for specific events.
- Lisa discussed how the PTO is trying hard to outline and present where there are gaps, and how to fill those gaps.
- She also discussed about being more organized so that certain events were not understaffed or over staffed.
- Lisa discussed the importance of spacing out fundraisers and not bombarding parents.
- Lisa outlined some new fundraising ideas that the PTO has for the 2007-2008 school year.

New Fundraising Ideas:

- Booster Club
- Joe Corbi's
- Car Magnets
- Bounce Around Nights
- Ice-Cream Social (Volunteer Recognition Night)
- Any other fundraiser ideas can be e-mailed to the PTO officers at officers@pto.smsbspa.org.
- A detailed list was given of open chairs for upcoming events. These openings can be found on the St. Mary's website <http://pto.smsbspa.org>
- The hope is to provide each chair a red folder which describes and outlines how the event should be run including budgets. These folders are currently being made or updated, and will be handed out accordingly.
- The PTO also discussed having an enrichment activity come to the school with a budget of \$ 2,000. For example, last year they had a local author come to the school who worked with the children on various activities.
- Lisa discussed getting childcare for PTO meeting. Suggestions were made to schedule people/students in need of community service hours. It was also pointed out that students who were getting ready for confirmation could also benefit if they helped with childcare.

Harvest Hop

- Dennis Rau discussed the Harvest Hop Road Race that will take place on November 3, 2007 at the Spa State Park in Saratoga.
- Registration and information of the event will be sent home on October 3, 2007.
- Dennis is in need of more volunteers to make this event successful.
- He is trying to get the community involved in the race to promote not only the need for the playground but also to publicize the school.
- He has listed this run on various runners websites used around the area.
- He is currently in need of DJ equipment for this event.
- Dennis concluded by stating the run is a tax write off and hopes everyone will come out on November 3, 2007.

Playground Committee

- Laura Cote discussed how the actual fundraising for the playground began in April or May of 2006.
- They continue raising money each day and just received another \$500.00 today which will be added to the treasurer's report.
- Father Kelly gave them permission to use the vacant lot in which they will put up the playground.
- The playground will have 17 play features and will be handicap accessible.
- Over the summer Laura discussed how various events such as the lemonade stand generated \$ 162.00, the 50/50 Raffle at the Double M Rodeo generated \$ 1350.00, the St. Mary's Parish Picnic donated \$763.00, and \$ 91.00 from GE US Services/Schenectady.
- Currently they are working on Macy's Fundraising Event which can be used nationwide.
- They are in the process of doing a car raffle from a gracious donation made by Andy James which will honor a 2 year lease for a Honda Fit. Each ticket will cost \$ 25.00. These tickets can be sold outside of area businesses.
- They have 4 or 5 parents who have volunteered to write grants in helping the playground committee.
- They have created a sponsorship letter to approach areas businesses.
- The committee promises not to recruit sponsors that are already being used for OIS and the Golf Tournament.
- Sister Jeanne Marie discussed her thoughts that asking too much from outside sources would not help the growing potential of the current major events that run like OIS and the Golf Tournament.
- Jane Obrecht also expressed concern that there shouldn't be an overlap in sponsors since other groups worked hard to establish their present sponsors. She also stated that the playground is not a need, but the \$50,000 commitment is.
- Karen suggested that each group come together to discuss ways that they could collaboratively work together to gain sponsorships. Andy concluded that a meeting will be called in which all three committees could sit down and have open discussions.

New Business:

- Laura Cote discussed the need of more people to be on the strategic planning committee, currently they have 8 members and the committee would like around 11 members.
- Joanne, a new parent, discussed her concern about how overwhelmed she felt with all the pressures of fundraising that come home on the first day of school. She also discussed how it would have been nice if parents were better informed on information and expectations before school begins in September. For Example, not really understanding

what the FFC was, and saying that things of this importance should be made more concise and clear.

- Sister Jeanne Marie suggested that in May when the PTO holds the Ice Cream Social that parents should be invited that will be new for the following school year.
- A possible summer orientation could also alleviate the stress of new parents.
- Another new parent suggested having a parent orientation that outlines information like uniforms and gives parents an opportunity for questions and answers.
- She also suggested having a coffee hour sponsored by the PTO which would help new parents feel more acquainted with the school.
- Laura commented that once other big fundraisers like the OIS and the Golf Outing become more popular that the burden of smaller fundraisers should be diminished because these fundraisers will generate much of the \$ 50,000.
- The PTO website has been updated. It has information such as the newsletters, PTO minutes and other pertinent information.
- Jill Fahey suggested putting headlines under each event so people are familiar with the expectations of the event.
- If anyone is interested in working on the website or have knowledge of Dream Weaver let the PTO know. Lisa Donovan is willing to be trained in this program.
- Theresa Faul has volunteered to make label stickers that remind parents that there is a PTO meeting that evening.
- The PTO is trying to arrange that each meeting will be the first Tuesday of every month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.