

St. Patrick Parent Association Minutes

September 14, 2009

1.) Call to order and Prayer by Mrs. Bosnak

2.) Principal's Comments

New year... new goals! This year the goals of the principal and her faculty are as follows:

- **SAFETY**: State of IL is making a push to make schools (as well as other entities) safer. All schools have received a \$36/student fund to be used to making the school a safer place. This year the school will only receive \$9/student. St. Pat's has already used some of the funds for the following: **A)** A safety fence along the perimeter of the back parking lot (early childhood wing) that is connected to the woods. This area brought on concern of stranger lurking around in the woods and could potentially cause for a kid-napping. The fence is now installed and extra awareness has been brought to the attention of the aides that are on duty while the children are out on the playground. Aides are now posted in designated areas to assure enforced supervision of the children. **B)** A new PA system was purchased & installed to assure that communication from the office could be heard all around the school indoors and out. There use to be a concern of some dead zones that a PA announcement could not be heard. The new PA system has now rectified that issue. In addition, there are speakers outside so in the event of an emergency and children are outside an announcement can be heard. **C)** Safety course mandated by the State to assure that all employees of the school go through the course. The course is typically done on an individual basis but our faculty will be taking the course during the 9/28/09 full day in service. An online test will be taken and must be passed. There are many facets of safety that St. Patrick School considers. In addition to physical harm that can be brought in by guns or invasion there is also the element of what happens in the surrounding area such as train derailment on the tracks nearby, plane crashes, terrorism, other important news, etc.
- **TECHNOLOGY**: After the school was evaluated technology was one area of focus. There is a need and concern to keep technology relevant, safe and improved. The classrooms are now using ELMO. A resource that can be used by the teachers with the use of laptop & projector. Mr. Hoch is making certain that website's are being brought to the attention of teachers for additional resources in the classrooms and for teaching. Religion teachers to use a published guide provided by The Chicago Archdiocese to help assist in additional materials to be taught that text books do not include.
- **DIVERSITY**: To be more cognoscente of other religions & races. Looking to broaden the scope of student's Christian life by learning about how others in the world live and believe.

3.) Treasurer' Report:

Monica Gabler reviewed the financial spreadsheet. Motion to approve (and 2nd approval) the balance sheet was made.

4.) Review of Registration and Fee Days

All went well! The new process of starting at the gym was well received. Mrs. Kotlar remarked that efforts are being made to further stream line the fee day process via Ren Web but is still a work in process.

(continued)

5.) Committee Updates

- **New Family Picnic** (Debbie Jasnoch) informed that the picnic went well but looking to make improvements. Suggestions such as not having a separate picnic for the new families but combining it with the regular church picnic may relieve the need to commit to 2 Sundays in August. Perhaps an ice cream social can take place before school starts to allow for the new kids to get acquainted with current school students. Debbie provided buddy families a list of dates to share with new families. Time line was helpful and used to assist new families. A FAQ booklet may also assist new families with questions they may have.
- **Welcome Back Coffee** (Dorie Kloss – not present) expressed a successful turnout. It was stated that there was observance of new families mingling with old families.
- **Room Parent** (Margaret Cloe – not present) remarked that no one signed up for 7th grade room parent. Since the meeting Eddie Robinson & Lucianne DeMarco will be room parents & chairs for the 8th grade banquet.
- **Fall Festival** (Rich Zielinski, Tammy Bertucci & Meg Fontana – not present) shared that details are coming together for another family night at Kroll's Farm on 10/30/09. Rain date 11/1/09. A "save-the-date" email will be going out soon with additional flyers going out in backpack mail. Copies of flyer will be made at the office but original and paper must be supplied. Preschool families to be included. Price will be slightly higher as mandated by Kroll's. Pizza price to the school will be the same as last year providing same quantity is purchased. Committee is waiting to get list of volunteers.
- **Restaurant Nights** (Ronja Dietzen – not present) is working on the 1st fundraiser. To be held at Uno's Pizza. Date to be determined. Four days are to be scheduled to allow for family flexibility.
- **Helping Hands** (Patti Antony) was advised that the Zupkus family was in need of help as well as the Kraly family. Patti is waiting on the list of volunteers.
- **Hospitality** (April Pearson) – Looking to get information on events. She was advised by Patti Antony that there is a book of notes from previous years. April to look at school calendar to get started with 1st event. Parent / teacher conferences, etc.
- **PEP** (Elvia Strutzel & Peri Kerber) announced there will be two events this year. First event is taking place on 9/24/09 called: "Don't sweat the net". A speaker coming to inform children and parents on how to be safe on the internet. In school session will take place for the 3rd-5th graders then a separate session for the 6th-8th graders (keeping topics relevant to the audience). Then an evening session from 7pm – 8pm to be held for parents only. No charge to families. Cost to have the speaker for (3) sessions approximate \$900.00. Location to be determined by Diane Kotlar and Elvia. Second event to happen in February 2010: 123 Magic a popular repeat from previous year.
- **School Decorating** (Barb Berkowicz – not present) but the hallways & classrooms are all decorated nicely.
- **Mother/Daughter, Father/Son Event** (Jennifer Corr) in the midst of making plans. Possible father/son activity to take place in winter. She will ask her husband Steve (Boy Scout Leader) for additional event ideas.

6.) The next meeting will be November 16th in the old church basement at 1:30pm.

Meeting time was changed from 1:15pm to 1:30pm since the children are getting out of school later this year.