Home School Association
Parent Meeting Minutes

Date: September 29, 2016
Time: 07:00 PM
Place: Cafeteria

Present:
Mr. Roaldi, Father Ron Sajdak, Bob Cox, Rob Kordylewski, Judy Bergman, Christine Deahn, Sandy Hamilton, Kathy Sutter, Mersey Dahl

Opening Prayer: Father Ron

Opening Comments:

• Daylan Jellinick has decided to take over scheduling volunteers of Scrip cards after Sunday mass and is looking for anyone who can help.
• New staff introductions were made.
• Bob Cox reviewed the purpose of the Home School Association in furthering the education and spiritual development of the school by securing resources for the activities that keep the school running well.

Guest speaker: Erik Hoertz, NBVM Gala

• This year’s Gala is November 11th. Invitation packets went home this week. Please let Erik know if you didn’t receive one. Invitations will be going out during mass this weekend and some will be left at the doorways.
• Solicitation packets are available to give out to people who may want to sponsor or contribute to the school. There are lots of way that people can support the school.
• Vendors of the school have also been given solicitation packets.
• The Gala committee has a master file of sponsors that can be checked if someone has already been asked to sponsor. Email nativitygala@gmail.com with questions.
• You can also ask your employer to match a donation which is a good way to give support.
• If anyone wants to help out with the Gala, please email nativitygala@gmail.com. You will be added to the distribution that is sent for all the different needs to support the Gala.
• Baskets are due the 21st of October.

Secretary Report: Mersey Dahl

• First meeting. No minutes to approve.
• Reminder that minutes will be posted to the website.
Pastor’s Report: Father Ron

• A big thank you was given to Mrs. Peters and Miss Kiss for their great job sharing the interim principle responsibilities over the summer. They provided excellent support. Thanks was also given to the dynamic search committee that organized and swiftly completed a 2 tier interview process. Three people were recommended to the final level of interviewing which was thorough and led to the hiring of Mr. Roaldi.
• Father Ron spoke about the Kindergarten classroom and the advantage that the water leak at the end of the school year had to facilitate getting the classroom moving ahead of schedule.
• Father Ron also reviewed that the teachers received the first half of the planned salary increase and they are happy with the pay adjustment. The second half will come next year. The parish council will determine funding to support the other half.
• We were able to identify a grant to support new computer technology and equipment for the school. He expressed excitement for the beginning of the school year.

Fundraising Coordinator: Judy Bergman

• Last year we exceeded the goal of $140,000 which is detailed in the fundraising packet. The budget for this year is $143,000. The fundraising booklet is available which outlines the fundraising opportunities and how you can participate.

Advancement Updates: Kathy Sutter

• Values for life budget was reviewed.
• There are 154 students in the 2016/2017 school year, 18 in the Kindergarten Readiness program and 37 in the pre-K programs. Hopefully that will give us a good feeder pool for next year. Please contact the advancement office by email or phone if needed. Mrs. Sutter gave accolades to the parents for all the support they give.
• Tour guides are needed for the pre-K open house on Tuesday, November 15. There is a script. There is a morning session and an evening session from 5-7 pm. Volunteers are needed for the evening session.
• There was discussion about maximizing the 4-year-old program because we still turn people away. We should look at a fairer rate for the school if we are 1/3 of the cost of most daycares. The recommendation is to raise the price. Some reasons for the current cost is because of times that the school is shut down compared to a daycare but it was noted for review.

Co-Presidents Report: Bob Cox and Rob Kordylewski

• Volunteer opportunities and HSA board meeting dates reviewed. There are plenty of opportunities for all to get involved.
• Lunch monitoring – a lot of people are paying $5 instead of showing up. The effect of doing so is that the children do not get to go outside. If you are signed up to be a monitor, please show up so that the kids can get outside.
• Trunk or treat – Elias and Greene family will be coordinating the event. Please contact them for participation.
• HSA board meetings – have pizza/pajama or ice cream party to the class with the largest parent attendance to incentivize parents to attend the meetings. The question came up regarding the use of dress down passes as well. It was discussed that we may not want to create too many occasions for dress down passes. The board will entertain other ideas to help improve attendance.

Principal Update: Mr. Roaldi

• Mr. Roaldi has expressed his thanks to the families, teachers and kids for the welcome he received and support he has gotten so far this year. We are looking for ways to grow. Nativity has been accepted into the STREAM program which was on the strategic plan.
• STREAM academies will be focused on hands on interactions, interconnected and cross curricular projects that will occur about once per week. Students gain access through sponsorship. The school Mr. Roaldi came from is on its 3rd year of implementation. One sponsor is Buffalo Science Museum. Extreme expo – academies are held once a year at St. Joe’s and will get us up close with the top schools in WNY. Any entrepreneurship through Stream? One sponsorship is through Junior Achievement and Tops. After parent teacher conferences, parents can get involved in coming into school to talk about what they do for a living.
• Parents thanked Mr. Roaldi for getting the school involved in STREAM and thanked Father Ron for sponsoring the initiative as there is a financial commitment.

Discussion and concerns:

• Dash’s receipts and box tops were discussed. Amy Bergman is handling them both. Trimming the box tops would be a huge help but they will be accepted in any condition.
• Gift cards were discussed. There is a transition team for gift cards from Mary Beth Cucinotta to Chrissy Erbacher and Daylan Jellinick. They will be the in school selling on Tuesday and Friday. Four people have committed to the school. Need more people for Sunday. Everyone has an account and new families’ accounts use the Mom’s email for the username.
• Monthly dinners are set up by Sharon Semko. The first one is at Panera on October 25th on Transit Road.
• The question was asked about how the before or after school program is running and about a lot of kids being in the cafeteria in the morning. It was explained that busses would ideally drop the kids off no earlier than 8 am but that is not happening. Mr. Roaldi watches the kids that are being released off the busses early. No other issues were brought up regarding the before school program.

Next meeting:
November 17, 2016, 7:00 PM

Future meetings:
January 26, 2017
March 16, 2017
May 11, 2017