

Saints Peter and Paul Home & School Association

General Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2014

Attendees: 80 attendees including School Parents, Teachers, Mrs. Egan, and Father McGuinn

Opening Prayer: Jim McGill

Fitness Equipment Project: Equipment was installed in August. Many students are using it at recess. Equipment will be dedicated this Sunday at Family Fun Day. Many thanks to project leader Mary Jane Lorenz.

Family Fun Day, Sunday Oct 5 : Christy Cosgrove (chairperson) spoke about this event. It is a free, fun afternoon for the SSPP school community. We will also have a CYO fun run. Please RSVP to Alison Oshop for the run.

Financial Report - Lauren Ranalli presented the 2013/14 year-end report (fiscal year ends June 30, 2014). Started the year with \$120,000 in cash and ended with \$115,000. The timing of the Annual Spring fundraiser lets us end the year with a maximum of cash. For the first 3 months of 2014/15, we spent \$12,000: for CPR recertification for teachers, Family Fun day, and Reading Olympic books.

Project Review – Barbara Downing. Each year we allocate \$10,000 for technology. We recently purchased 6 laptops and 2 printers for the school. We will most likely need to replace a smart board during this school year and that will deplete this year's technology fund. The Outdoor Electronic Sign project is currently on-hold due to Father McGuinn's request. He would like the school and parish to address general branding/logo/color issues before we install a sign. The BOLJ Marketing Committee is working on this. Father will appoint parish representatives. Doreen Pietrantonio and Sheila Doherty volunteered to work on the team also.

New Project Proposal: Home and School funds are needed to upgrade an existing large storage area into a new Music and Multi-Media Studio. In August, an Archdiocesan Safe Environment audit deemed it unsafe for the students to leave the school building and attend classes in the parish center. Therefore, we need to move the honors math, guidance and support classes out of the parish center and accommodate these students safely in the school building. The school needs to make the best use of the space it has and re-arrange some classroom and storage spaces. Barbara is asking the HSA parents to approve \$30,000 for classroom upgrades. *(At the meeting, we had 35 minutes of questions and discussion on this topic. The parents raised many critical and important issues that Barbara attempted to answer given the current state of the project – which is in the early stages and not clearly defined. The questions included: contractor issues, music curriculum, concerns over putting honors math ahead of music,*

dismantling an existing classroom, moving the TV studio, trailer options, funding issues etc). With the addition of Home and School funds, we can create the best space possible for all students. The Home and School Association has always been there to push our classrooms to the next level in terms of technology. This is our chance to do it for the music and media programs at SSPP. Some ideas for this classroom are a smartboard, sound mixing equipment, good lighting, sound adsorption, microphones, etc.

The Vote to allocate \$30,000 for the Music and Multi-Media studio was passed unanimously without any objection.

Golf Outing Update – Trish Kyle – event was a huge success. Currently have \$69,000 revenue before expenses. Thanks to all who supported this outing which benefits the SSPP teachers.

Father McGuinn – led us in a chorus of Celtic Alleluia and a stretch after the long discussion. Goal of his is for families to be happy and holy.

- parents are key and need to be inspired
- have meals together – knows we are busy but make time
- parish should make Masses never boring
- if kids like going to Mass, we are moving in the right direction
- Family devotions each day – can be simple
- Blessing of Animals on the feast of St. Francis this Sat and Sunday

School Store Update – Kevin McLaughlin and Colin Hueston

- (13) 5th graders, (6) 7th graders and (11) 8th graders are participating
- 2 meetings so far
- Successful book sale
- Looking for ways to learn business skills.

CYO Update - John Callahan

- John has been involved with CYO for 10 years in some capacity and took over from Matt Hodlofski
- Some new members on CYO board - about 15 in total
- CYO mission statement summary: a program to help players understand their Catholic faith while playing sports
 - Fall sports session (JV grades 5/6 and Varsity grades 7/8) includes soccer, volleyball, field hockey and cross country (K-8). We play football with St. Agnes and flag football starts in 3rd grade.
 - Winter session is Basketball! We have Region teams (competitive) and parish teams (no cuts/everyone gets playing time). Last year we had 19 basketball teams including 5 high school teams. Also hold a CYO March

madness clinic for Grades 1-4 and Santa Hoops tournament in December at SSPP.

- Spring session is baseball, softball, girls lacrosse, and track
- All teams must do a community service project
- Only CYO fundraiser is the Beef and Beer - January 24, 2015.
- Rob Bedics and Bryan Willcox are working on a project that will include field upgrades, snack bar, picnic table, port-a-potty, etc. Rob won a \$10,000 grant from his employer to help with this project.
- CYO always needs volunteers- You must take the Safe environment class and have clearances

School Update - Mrs. Egan

- Need more lunch volunteers!
- World meeting of Families – less than a year away. We hope the Pope is coming. There is a curriculum for this that the kids will be taught
- Mrs. Lowthert won a teaching award from the Foundation for Catholic Education!
- Mrs. Luciano-Fairfield has a very sick child and the SSPP teachers and community have stepped up to help her family.
- MyStudentsProgress.com is the new system for viewing your child's grades. You will be getting an email with access information soon. Communication is key. Prek – 3 have letter grades (except for conduct which is a number). Most important is to ask yourself: *Is my child learning?* Grades 4-8 get number grades. Partner as a team with your child's teacher. Let Mrs. Egan know of any concerns.

Next HSA General meeting: Wednesday, December 3rd at 7:00 p.m.