

St. Leo the Great Parent-Teacher Organization's Executive Board Meeting

January 13, 2010

Meeting Purpose:

Event review, Event status and planning, General Business

Board Members Present:

Larry McGrail, Jennifer Conroy, Kim Pham, Mary Knapp, Teresa Ketron, Suzanne Dowd, David DiPippa, Deborah Ball, Melissa Baker, Coleen MacKay

Guests:

Kristin Bolster, Katie Blanchard, Pam Morrison, Nancy Wiegand, Mizuho Akiba, William Schouviller, Kathy Budzynski

Welcome, Opening Prayer. Larry McGrail called the meeting to order at 7:19 pm and welcomed all present. He led the group in an Opening Prayer.

November Minutes. (Subject actually came up following the Treasurer's Report) Larry asked for questions, comments, concerns and/or modifications.

- Motion to approved minutes was passed and minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report. Kim Pham presented a 4-page report that showed income, expenses and a cash balance of \$59,000.

•Knights of Columbus Scrip. Larry said he thought we couldn't do the Knights Scrip sales because of overhead issues. Kim responded that the Knights close their books in June and make a donation to the PTO at that time whether or not the school participates in the Scrip sales. Suzanne Dowd mentioned that the Knights still sell Scrip on the second Wednesday of the month and that we could help promote it, perhaps by putting a notice in the newsletter. Mr. DiPippa agreed that information could be put in the Thursday newsletter (Between the Lions).

•Mr. DiPippa asked whether Erin Cooke had cleaned up the bills since 2 fees charged to Mary Beth Crosson should not be charged to this year's budget, for example, the school sign. Kim responded that it will show up in next month's report.

•Catholic Business Network Dinner & Auction Pay Software. The Dinner is now \$600 rather than the \$500 shown in the paperwork. There is no charge this year against the 5-year contract for Auction Pay Software.

•Computers for Computer Lab. Larry received an e-mail from Mr. Hedderson requesting new computers for the lab. Mr. DiPippa mentioned that the school received a donation and purchased monitors already. The computers are 7-years old and have been upgraded several times over the years. A lengthy discussion ensued about technology funds (including source(s), past expenditures and future needs); computer needs for both the lab and individual teachers; and the merits of using PTO savings now/this year v. waiting for income generated by next Fall's Golf Tournament. Larry proposed asking Mr. Hedderson to provide an estimate of the computer lab needs as well as teacher needs and inviting both he and Mrs. Allis to our next PTO meeting. Mr. DiPippa will ask for a

memo to address the PTO's questions. A vote was taken and all were in favor of requesting more information from Mr. Hedderson.

- Larry received a request from Mr. Torma for monetary support for the 6th grade Medieval Day activities. A lengthy discussion ensued about whether the request is for over and above the \$500 already allotted; whether families should cover the costs in total, opt out if they do not have the means to cover the additional costs, or have the opportunity to ask for financial help; and, the educational value of this activity. Mr. DiPippa will ask Mr. Torma for more information.

Volunteer Committee Report. Committee members want to have the volunteer survey ready for the February General Membership Meeting. Issues still under consideration:

- Whether volunteer obligations should be mandatory or satisfied through a financial payment.
- Opinions on the logging system.
- Rewarding participation through: 1 hour credit for filling out the survey, 1 dress down day, or by some other means.

Suzanne Dowd asked to add questions pertaining to fundraising events.

Larry asked the Committee to send the draft to PTO Board members before going final and sending to Mr. DiPippa for approval.

Fundraising Committee Report. Regarding suggested fundraisers for the first half of this year Suzanne Dowd made the following comments:

- Raised \$595.00 so far this year.
- Let's Dish runs through January, but we can extend for 3 months. (Approved)
- 5 Below was slow before Christmas, but they're willing to host before Easter. (Approved)

- Fuddrucker's brought in \$220.00
- Chick-Fil-A cheesecakes brought in \$100 last year. Do again? (Yes)

Information about upcoming events will be put in the weekly newsletter.

- January – Red Hot & Blue Jan. 27 & 28
- February – Fairfax Ice Arena & McDonald's
- March – Baja Fresh (March 8)
- April – Coyote Grill
- May – Ledo's
- June – Friendly's

“One Cause” on-line shopping opportunity will be tabled 'til August.

By-Laws Modification Committee Report. Larry will make a report at the General Membership Meeting next month.

Golf Tournament. Larry noted that a kick-off meeting is scheduled for Jan. 20 at the Auld Shebeen Irish Pub & Restaurant. Tom told him that since costs have gone up at Laurel Hills, he is looking at other venues. Kim just reimbursed Tom for software. Mr. DiPippa noted that a flyer would be going home with students with information about the upcoming kick-off meeting.

Quiz Bowl. Kristin Bolster will have a flyer ready to send home with students next week as well as information in the weekly newsletter. She would like to see the following changes to the event:

- More time for socializing before the end of the event—maybe end a bit earlier to accomplish this.
- More activity between the rounds—coupon giveaways from area restaurants and/or shops.

Ice Cream Social. March 20. PTO will handle ice cream sales. 8th grade will handle media sales.

Spring Fun Run/Family Carnival. A formal proposal will be put together by the volunteers handling this (Silvia M. Neves, Pam Morrison & Katie Blanchard). Issues still under consideration:

- Fun Run a separate event?
- Combine Carnival with Parish Picnic?
- Are these events to raise funds or build community spirit?
- Event timing—Spring, since no Golf Tournament this year, or Fall w/ Parish Picnic?
- What kinds of “things”, i.e., food? Games? Booths?

This led to an expanded discussion about some sort of Welcome Back to School event for school families such as a Bar-B-Q and also how to improve the Old Friends/New Friends Coffee.

General Membership Meeting. February 18, 7-9pm, Parish Hall. Request for suggested agenda items will be in the weekly newsletter. May need a second meeting to vote on agenda items (this first meeting for discussion purposes).

Closing Remarks. Mr. DiPippa mentioned

- Meeting with Fr. Whitestone in November when a decision was made not to increase tuition/fees for next year.
- Our numbers look good for next year. The next Open House is scheduled for Jan. 31, with two others during the week.
- High school placement test scores have gone up, for the third year in a row.
- Much is planned for Catholic Schools Week, for example the Superintendent will come to talk to students. It is a celebration week for the school community.
- Enrichment programs have increased this year with more activities to choose from.

Adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 9:14pm.