

St. Mary's Home and School Association October 2018 General Meeting Minutes

Date, Time, and Location: Monday, October 8, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in the Spanish Room

Meeting called to order by President Mary Sasek at 6:35pm

Attendance: Mary Sasek, Liz Wessling, Joe Mlnarik, Lisa Schneider, Dr. Wallinger, 3 teachers, and 6 parents/guardians

Not in Attendance: Craig Ames

Minutes: Available on St. Mary's School website

1. Opening

a. Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.

2. Principals' Report – (Dr. Wallinger)

Spirit Day – Thank you for sponsoring lunch for spirit day; everyone was very grateful.

Computer chairs ordered (purchased with H&S funds).

Gaga Pit Flooring: Current plan was to use Echo service to replace gaga pit flooring; however their (customer) service has been disappointing. Looking into a different company, Crouch Recreation. After sending out a request to them for resurfacing for gaga pit, initial response was that the original estimate from Echo was too high. Continuing to search for best option before committing financially.

STAR results were shared. Archdiocese results compared to St. Mary's in reading were given. In summary St. Mary's scored overall above the Archdiocese scores for each grade level (3rd - 7th). Similarly in Math, St. Mary's students scored above the Archdiocese scores for all grades except 3rd which scored just under. Dr. Wallinger attributes that to 3rd grade as the first grade taking the STAR and the first time taking a timed test. No 8th grade scores at this time.

Accreditation external team visit will be arriving soon. Dr. Wallinger wants everyone to know St. Mary's mission statement. From her experience on such a team, this is a question they most likely will ask people along with how we plan to achieve our mission at St. Mary's. She had a prize for anyone in the room who could recite the mission statement. Nobody was able to recite the entire mission statement.

She attended a STEM leaders forum last Wed. sponsored by Discovery Ed. at the Zoo—She shared her vision of moving toward STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion (because we are a Catholic school, instead of Reading—library is not going anywhere), Engineering, Art, and Math). She envisions a technology specialist on staff. She would like to see students that are producers of technology, not users of technology. She wants students to reach the higher levels of Blooms Taxonomy: evaluate, analyze, create and synthesize information. Instead of asking students, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" ask, "What problem do you want to solve when you grow up?" She wants students to become problem solvers of our nation's future challenges (16 of which were recently identified by the UN). She would like to see technology integrated into the classroom curriculum and student engaged in projects that blend in multiple subjects. She would also like to find ways to encourage girls to do more with technology? This vision is in its infancy. No plans have been made to make any changes at this point in time. With the support of the School Board Dr. Wallinger is putting together a strategic planning committee to pursue these ideas. Dr. Wallinger commented that Christina Legner is going to be a part of this committee and others will be invited to join the committee. To help find gaps in the programs currently offered at St. Mary's a survey is going to be sent out soon. Please take the survey and provide feedback.

An example of how she wants students to take charge when they see a problem was given. This year two students saw a problem in the lunch room. They noticed too many fruits and veggies are being thrown out. They wanted to solve this problem of waste by making a compost for food not eaten. Dr. Wallinger told them to write up a proposal for their solution and submit to her for review. The two students went to work on their proposal. Dr. Wallinger has reviewed the first draft of the proposal, suggested a few changes, and the two students are fine tuning their proposal. They saw a problem and are taking charge to find and implement a solution.

Three teachers are doing workshops at College of St. Mary's again this year focused on chemistry and math. Miss J gave a personal testimony on how she applied this workshop last year into her 4th grade classroom. She appreciated how the workshop leaders helped modify the lesson to fit her grade level. Each of the projects were classroom ready. She implemented several in her classroom right away last year. The projects encouraged student-led problem solving using limited materials.

3. Financial Update

a. Monthly Financials –Craig

Skip – Craig is out of town for work.

b. Voting on current funding requests –Craig

Skip - vote next month when Craig has returned.

After reading last month's general meeting minutes, Collette informed Mary that the Archdiocese regulations state a copy of any major expenses and warranties on major purchases should also be kept at the rectory with her. Mary was unaware of this, but will do so in the future.

4. Past Activity Review

a. September

i. Room Parent 101 (9/10) – Lisa

New parents felt it was helpful and she got good feedback. A parent in the room agreed that it was informative.

ii. Fall Fundraiser ended (10/4) – Mary

Still counting and inventorying orders. Tomorrow, Oct. 9th, is going to be the last day for turning in the orders, so final order can get into Charleston Wrap. List of winners read aloud. Number of items sold included online sales when determining top sellers. Dr. Wallinger commented that the kids had a good time at the assembly. Company will send the individual prizes when they send the orders back to us.

Next month at exec board we will revisit the necessity of a Fall Fundraiser. Mary gave her reasons for why the fall fundraiser should always take place. Pushback: Why do we offer a buyout for the fall fundraiser, but not for anything else, like service hours, spring auction, etc.? Pushback: With a fund raiser the idea is that you go to other people and ask them to buy. You do not have to pay out of pocket.

Dr. Wallinger addressed the buyout for service hours. She has spoken with Father Del in the past and is willing to revisit with Father again if we want. In their last meeting he made the comment that someone would have to be in charge of tracking this? Another question asked to the group: Do you go after the money if some families may not be able to do all of the service hours? Some are struggling with the money for tuition as it is. When you compound the fees for those that are trying to come to St. Mary's for the first time, it can make it difficult to welcome them into our family (at St. Mary's). Nobody commented on who would try to collect the money for the buyout of service hours or any buyout situation. It was noted by Mary that two families did the buyout. Some families only sold a couple of items, not 20. Nobody is going after the families that don't sell 20 or who don't pay the buyout amount. They are just suggestions.

Dr. Wallinger commented that when families enroll they are more upfront with the service requirements. If a family does not feel they can meet the service hour requirement Father Del is

brought into the conversation. Each case (for service hour adjustments) must be okayed by Father Del. Currently around 30% of families do their service hours.

Parent Question: Is it clear what counts as volunteer (service) hours? Answer from group: A list of service hours is not in the hand book, but Cathy and Dr. Wallinger are working on a volunteer book to explain just this topic to families. Another place to find what might be considered service hours is to look at the drop down menu of volunteer options on Sycamore when entering service hours. A suggestion was made to update this drop down menu. The handbook has when service hours begin and end for the school year. A suggestion was made to have a way for people to record their service in the moment by filling out a form at the office when signing in or at volunteer events. Then the form would be placed in the home and school box or an 'in box" on the desk to be entered for parents that can't do this on line.

Mary conclude discussion, Fall Fundraiser discussion will take place at exec. board meeting in Nov. addressing the buyout, min number of items that must be sold, and other potential fundraising options for the future. Any other ideas for other fundraising companies are greatly appreciated. Send Mary any of your ideas. One parent asked about selling chocolate bars because her school sold them with great success because they were cheap. She felt the catalog was too expensive. Perhaps a more tangible product is a new route we can go.

5. Upcoming Events

a. October

i. Spirt Day (10/1) – Lisa

Legner helped with Chili and Cinnamon rolls, dip and fruit.

ii. Dickey's BBQ (10/18) – Joe

Located at Twin Creek - 10% of Sales earned- no mention at the register from 5pm -8pm

iii. Trivia Night (10/19) - Liz

Oct. 19th in school gym. Doors open at 6pm and game begins at 7pm. All paperwork has been filed with city and state. Finalizing questions. Gathering volunteers. So far we have 5 volunteers. Willie may be asking for at least one more person or two. We need someone to collect money at the door and check in teams and another person to read the questions over the mic. We only have about 4 or 5 teams registered. We would love to have more. Last year we had around 11 teams. Hoping more people will sign up soon. Should be a great night. The Legners donated Husker football tickets to auction off and Dr. Wallinger has allowed us to auction off free dress days. Buying pop as it is on sale. Medals have been purchased as well.

iv. PT Conference dinner for teachers Oct. 25th

Instead of Dickey's switching to another vendor. Mary will send teachers a list of options that have gone over well in the past for them to pick. H&S will sponsor their dinner for that evening.

v. Halloween Fun Night (10/26) –Liz

Mary will work with Cathy for use of rooms and facilities. Craig will help with décor. Mary is working with Anne of other parish groups that might like to decorate a door and hand out candy. Games update by Liz. Several fun games mentioned. Looking at pricing for items to make games to be used on future Halloween Fun Nights and pricing on prizes. Food update: sub sandwiches and handy snacks like fruit snacks. Voting on doors and pumpkin carving will be that night by everyone in attendance instead of just a few adults. A flyer will be sent home soon advertising the event.

b. November

i. Spirit Day (11/5) – Lisa

Pre K and K are doing assorted soups. They already have a sign-up genius going. They are ready.

ii. Veteran's Day Parade – Joe

10 am on Nov. 10th ; decorate float at 9am; Veteran's Day Assembly will be Nov. 9th at 1:45 pm in the school gym.

iii. Food Night –Joe

Nov. 8th at Pepperjax (on 370) from 5pm -10pm; 20% with a flyer. Joe is going to talk with the manager about trying to go with just mention at the register instead of a flyer.

iv. Auction Kick off - Janet

Auction Kickoff meeting will be Sunday, Nov. 4th at 6pm in Spanish Room. Auction chairs will send out email about volunteer info. Contact Al and Melissa Swieciki, Janet Solberg, or Home and School if you have questions.

6. Wrap up

a. Around the room –

Sheridan: She wanted to thank H&S for funding wits clash tournaments. Students are still paying \$5 and H&S is taking care of the rest. With this assistance, no student is turned away because they cannot pay \$5. So far this year there have been two wits clash tournaments and we have brought back two trophies. Students are not only performing well, they are also displaying good sportsmanship whether they win or lose.

Parent concern regarding the weekly newsletter: How come you removed what was going on that week (the quick reference box on the first page)? Dr. Wallinger replied: Since several would

like it back, it can be put back in. The monthly reminders are also on the school web site and Sycamore.

Dr. Wallinger: Lights in gym are going to be changed out perhaps this Wednesday (10/10/18) around our activities. They will be LED lights. One section that gets you to store room and the kitchen will be able to be turned on without the others. It will be brighter.

Joe: He wanted to know if the school did not have fire sprinklers. He was surprised when he saw that as an option on the survey taken at church a few weeks ago. Dr. Wallinger responded that no there aren't any because our building was grandfathered in. The fire chief highly recommends that we get them. At this point it depends on how the survey goes as to how the extra funds will be spent.

Liz: Thank you to Dr. Wallinger and the teachers for helping get us (H&S) out with anything we need. I asked Ms. Kallman at the last minute to help me get some music together for the kick off assembly. She stopped what she was going to do and helped me right away. Dr. Wallinger always has exactly what I need and is very accommodating.

Dr. Wallinger: Sign up for conferences

7. Closing Prayer: Our Father

Next meeting is 11/12/18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Spanish Room

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Minutes compiled by Elizabeth Wessling, Recording Secretary