

Saint Matthew Parents' Club
April 7th, 2009 7:00 pm
Multi-Purpose Room
Meeting Minutes

- I. Call to Order – Opening Prayer – Mrs. Scherer
- II. Roll Call – Stacey DeLorenzo, Julie Hansen, Tece Hendrickson, Karen Pollard, Kathy Scherer, Gabrielle Schmitt
- III. Approval of minutes – March 2009 minutes were accepted by Gabrielle Schmitt and seconded by Julie Hansen
- IV. Principal's Report – Mrs. Scherer

Mrs. Scherer shared some items she has received in the mail. The school received a certificate for participating in the "Mix it Up at Lunch Day" on November 18th. We also received a thank you from the American Cancer Society for the approximately \$700 raised from the coins for cancer fundraiser earlier in the year.

In order to get Fee Day information packets in the mail by August 5th, Fee Day information will need to be ready by the time the school office closes for summer break (in early June). Julie Hansen will contact Amy Armstrong regarding pricing and information about hot lunches. Janet and Jerry should have templates for most of the other information that needs to go out.

The 2009-2010 school year calendar is still in draft form until approved by the Diocese. Mrs. Scherer shared some of the tentative dates. The first day will be Thursday, August 20th (which, in addition to August 21st will be half days). The last day of school will be June 7th. If there are no snow days the last day will be 5 days earlier. Christmas break will be December 19th-January 3rd and Spring break will be March 20th-March 28th.

- V. Pastor's Report – Monsignor Merdian (not present)

Monsignor Merdian asked Tece to mention the Holy Week Masses and encouraged all to attend. He was happy to report strong attendance in Disciples in Mission.

VI. President's Report – (not present)

VII. Treasurer's Report – Julie Hansen

The current fund balance is \$55,399 with \$885.81 of that being money allotted to the teachers from book fair profits.

The final installment of the Peaceable Schools Program has been paid for (out of budget item Faculty/Student Development). Maintenance expense is up by \$1500 for freezer fixed last month. Julie raised a concern that the school is paying the entire cost of the freezer when the only group that was found to definitely be using the freezer was the Parish Fish Fry. She thinks repairs to items used by both the school and the Parish should be shared.

Next month should reflect the \$3000 payment to the DeLorenzo's for the Winter Carnival raffle. This is a flat amount and not equal to a year of tuition as it had been in some prior years. Most of the other expenses for the year are complete.

Julie also brought up the use of the fund balance. She is concerned that we have so much money with no purpose. Without a purpose it may not be spent as carefully. She thought Parents' Club needs to come up with a goal for the money. Mrs. Scherer will look over the SLRP to determine if there are any items in there that will fund anytime in the horizon. A question was raised as to whether Peaceable Schools would cost the same next year.

Mrs. Scherer mentioned being very encouraged by discussions she has had with students she has had to meet with to discuss issues on getting along. She thinks the Peaceable Schools initiative is getting through to the kids.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Box Tops

Amy Hubbard and Gabrielle Schmitt will co-chair the box tops committee next year.

B. Scrip – Still need new chair

C. School Kits – Still need new chair

A question came up last month about whether we want to continue School Kits. In that time Sheila Gillette has sent out order forms for next years School Kits. The committee is still in need of a new chair.

IX. Unfinished/Continuing Business

The whereabouts of the Sam's Club card is still unknown.

A notice will go out in May for parent help at Fee Day.

X. New Business

Officer Nomination and Committee Chairs

Discussion was raised about finding parents to serve on Parents' Club board and committees. Tece mentioned sending out emails via the room parents to find parents interested in volunteering for both the executive board and as committee chairs. Mrs. Scherer mentioned there are rules in the by-laws for the process by which new officers are nominated. A non-officer is appointed to chair a nominating committee. Tece will discuss this process with Janet since new officers should be announced at the May meeting. For committee chairs, in the past a flier has been sent out with information about committee positions that need to be filled.

Ideas were discussed about how to get more parents to attend Parents' Club meetings. Some of the ideas mentioned were:

- Incentives: Pot of Gold (each parent pays \$1 and class with most attendees gets the money)
- Provide childcare for those attending
- Have a classroom representative at each meeting
- Meeting reminders

The bottom line is that parents need to get something out the meetings to give up their evenings to attend a meeting.

May Meeting

The faculty thanks Parents' Club for their work with hors d'oeuvres at the May meeting. This meeting starts at 6:30 instead of 7pm. The teacher representatives will send out invites to committee chairs and board members.

Enrichment Committee

Tece provided a copy of the SLRP item on enrichment. She would like to see a committee begin in September with a goal of 2-3 enrichment activities to be provided throughout the school year.

The committee would also determine what other enrichment type activities parents and students would be interested. A suggestion was made to have an interest sheet available at Fee Day.

Winter Carnival

Stacey had several suggestions for Winter Carnival. She would like to see the carnival moved to the weekend before Ash Wednesday. Mrs. Scherer mentioned that this is when it was done in the past. Moving the date would give the organizers more time to prepare. With it being so close to the holidays it means having to do a lot of work in a very short time. Adding a couple of weeks would be helpful to organizers.

Stacey would like to send a request at the end of this school year for parents to starting saving their unopened fast food toys for next years carnival game prizes. They are hoping to collect new toys for prizes instead of heavily recycles ones.

A request was made add \$5 for class baskets to Fee Day. This would help those organizing class baskets. A motion was made by Stacey to have this added to the Fee Day costs. It was seconded by Gabrielle. Tece will let Janet know so it can be added to the Fee Day template.

XI. Adjourn.

Next Meeting is May 13th in the MP Room.