

St. Matthew Parents' Club
October 14, 2009 7:00 p.m.
St. Mark Room
Meeting Minutes

- I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer – The meeting was called to order by Tece Hendrickson. Msgr. Merdian led the opening prayer.
- II. Roll Call – Cindy Brya, Meg Cline, Lisa Crawford, Kati Dee, Edna Ennis, Julie Hansen, Tece and Ryan Hendrickson, Laura Hettinger, Amy Hubbard, Craig Jackson, Denise Martin, Msgr. Merdian, Jennifer Mulcahey, Jennifer Nelson, Julie O’Mahoney, Karen Pollard, Jennifer Quinn, Suzanne Rodawig, Kathy Scherer, Gabrielle Schmitt, John Schmitt, John Sullivan, and Bill and Liz Vavrik.
- III. Pastor’s Report – Msgr. Merdian

The parish has subsidized St. Matthew School and the High School of St. Thomas More \$250k-600k every fiscal year. This doesn’t include tuition assistance for St. Matthew School families or families who reneged on tuition. This year 45% of the parish budget will be spent subsidizing the schools. Msgr. Merdian noted that this year marks the highest amount of tuition assistance the parish has given.

Msgr. Merdian would like to build the school endowment that provides general support of the school. The earnings from the endowment are reinvested, and the recommendation is to build it to \$400k-500k and start using a portion of the income. He said there is a need for a database of St. Matthew School alumni and an alumni newsletter, to in part build the endowment. If parishioners are interested in volunteering their time and talents on this project, they should let him know. If the Parents’ Club would like to do tuition assistance or endowment support, it would need to go through the parish.

- IV. Principal’s Report – Mrs. Scherer

Mrs. Scherer thanked Parents’ Club for purchasing and spreading the mulch on the playground. She congratulated the girls and boys cross-country teams for going to state. Some of the service projects the school is doing in October include a food for families collection and It’s All in the Jeans Day, to raise money for breast cancer research. The school is also participating in the Provena Health Walk on October 24.

The H1N1 flu has hit the school, and staff are cleaning and wiping down surfaces daily. Mrs. Scherer asked parents for their input on whether she should purchase a forehead thermometer to check the children’s temperatures when they come to the office feeling ill. Parents agreed that the thermometer was a good idea. Public Health will be coming to the school to give children the H1N1 vaccination. Parents must fill out a form if they want their child to receive the shot. Children 9 years of age and under need to have 2 shots. Teachers would appreciate parents preparing their children for shots if they want them to have the vaccination.

Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on November 5 for grades K-5 and November 3 for grades 6-8. There will be a Confirmation parents meeting on October 19 and the Saints Parade on October 30. The Advent Program will be December 6.

V. President's Report – Tece and Ryan Hendrickson

The Parents' Club will hold an Adoration Hour the last Tuesday of the month at 8:00 a.m. Parents can stay for an hour or less. The Parents' Club website has been updated. Look for more information on a family volunteer opportunity, which will hopefully take place before the end of this year.

VI. Treasurer's Report – Bill and Liz Vavrik

Parents' Club collects all money up front, at Fee Day, and then pays it out throughout the year. Committee chairs needing to make purchases (hospitality, hot lunch) can now use the Parent Club debit card. When they need to purchase supplies, they can check out the debit card and that way will not need to be reimbursed. They will need to keep their receipts and must stay within the committee's budget. Money collected for the Spring Musical will be donated to Sr. Mary George for the music programs. A note was placed in the school newsletter to inform parents that if they wanted a refund of the money they gave for the Spring Musical, they needed to let the treasurers know. Committee chairs will start using Scrip giftcards to pay for committee expenses—they should still keep all receipts.

VII. Ed Comm Report – John Schmitt

An Ed Comm committee member will attend the Parents' Club meetings to give an update and in case there is any policy discussion. There are 9 voting members on Ed Comm. The focus is on the Strategic Long-Range Plan. There is a recommendation to extend the school day by 30 minutes; action will not be taken until Ed Comm reviews how the new school day schedule is going. The Ed Comm meeting agenda and minutes will be posted on the bulletin board and school website. If parents have an issue to discuss at an Ed Comm meeting, they need to speak to an Ed Comm member or Mrs. Scherer to have the item added to the agenda.

VIII. Enrichment – Karen Pollard

Some of the upcoming enrichment activities include family enrichment nights, a Chess Club, and Drama Club. The first Family Reading Night will take place on November 11 from 6:30-8:00. The theme will be Award Winning Books. A flyer has been sent home to advertise the Chess Club. The club is open to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders and no experience is necessary. Parents who help with Chess Club or Drama Club will need to go through Protecting God's Children training if they haven't already. Chess Club will take place two days a month for an hour and a half. Drama Club will have their first meeting October 21. The club will be for grades 6-8. Children can join at any time and the club may be expanded to lower grades if there is not enough interest. Drama Club will expose kids to all aspects of theater and go on field trips for some sessions. It will be held the first and third Wednesday of the month. There will be auditions in March and a student production in April. Tim

Flanagin will direct the student production. There is also a plan to revive the St. Matthew Talent Show in May.

IX. Peaceable Schools – Denise Martin

A workshop was held in September on peer-to-peer mediation. Students will be selected as peer mediators and go through training. Topper Steinem has been working with teachers and led a student assembly. The Peaceable Schools student committee has student leaders from grades 4-8. The Peaceable Olympics will be held again next year. The Parents' Club Peacemaker Award will be discussed at the January meeting.

X. Fundraising

Box Tops—Amy Hubbard announced that a \$20 giftcard will be given to the child who brings in the most Box Tops. Box Tops are due October 23; the next collection will be in the spring. She mentioned putting up a goal chart on the school bulletin board to show how many tops were collected.

Scrip—Laura Hettinger said that only 10-15 families consistently order through Scrip. For a lot of schools, Scrip is their primary fundraiser. Parents' Club will buy giftcards and keep them as inventory, may be used for committee purchases. Giftcards will be sold during the Christmas season after mass at coffee and donuts. Further discussion on Scrip was tabled for the next Parents' Club meeting.

XI. Announcements

Msgr. Merdian reminded parents of the Men's Night for the parish on October 17 and the Orthodox dialogue on October 21. Trunk or Treat will be held (weather permitting) on October 23.

XII. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. Next meeting will be November 18.