

Stella Maris Academy Parent Teacher Organization

Minutes

June 8, 2010

8:15 am

In attendance: Bernadette Brannigan, Dana Irwin, Fran Vargas, Kimberly McSherry, Sandy Whalen, Liz Thomas, Florence Galvani, Liz Gotfredson, Lillian Nadhir, Kate Mangan, Jennifer Oliver, Ann Killeen, Julie Hollis, Lucita Beresford, Yvette Callahan

Call to Order

Opening Prayer-Bernadette Brannigan

Old Business

President's Report- Thank you for another great year and all of the unwavering support. Those in the room and many others not present today have worked so hard to ensure that SMA continues to be the best it can be. We are forever grateful. Judy Bokhari is the new treasurer who will be replacing Kate Mangan. We are looking for a new VP as Ava Conlin is unable to return due to work commitments. Jennifer Oliver volunteered to be the new Secretary, replacing Dana Irwin. Parliamentarian position is open, but thoughts are that it could be combined with another position, most likely Secretary. A co-chair for Grandparents' Day is needed. Fran Vargas volunteered to help for Grandparents' Day. A resource center will be started for the school. See more in line item below. Room mom candidates are being pursued for next year. Anne Noya will be very instrumental in working with Teri on getting more school info into the church bulletin. Also, recently All Hallows had some editorials in the local papers from middle school students commenting on events in our local community. This could be a good way to increase SMA's visibility. Liz will look into it to promote our school on a more regular basis.

Treasurer's Report-Kate Mangan-Cash on hand: \$16,943.17. Taken in \$129,349.70, spent \$91,943.17. \$75,000 was transferred to school board account. It is expected that another \$15,000 will be transferred at year end. Teacher/staff/admin gifts have all been written. Parishioner green envelopes come in at about \$100 per month. Opportunities for fundraising could be enhanced.

Principal's Report-Mrs. Lowell –a sincere and heartfelt thank you to all the wonderful work and volunteers.

New Business

1. Fundraisers

Scrip- Liz Thomas: Liz and Jennifer gave a check to the school for \$15,000! Thank you so much.

Star Gala- Feb. 12 @ Hyatt Regency, Kim McSherry, Chair – has already begun working on Gala plans.

Resource Center –Liz Gotfredson and Ann Killeen. A support group was started by parents whose kids have/possibly have a learning disability. SMA PTO and School Board are completely supportive of starting a Resource Center at SMA. Next meeting will be Thursday. The idea is to raise

standards across the board within each classroom by getting the kids who are struggling get the help they need and that way the entire class can progress at a faster rate. Up to 20% of students could be kids who would need the extra help. This would include extra help studying and extra time for tests. Mrs. Ostertag's certification is being assisted with public funds, and perhaps we could get additional dollars for the resource center from SDUSD. Going to need funding, parents may be asked to help contribute, but it would be less than what is being paid for private tutoring according to parents who have gone down his path before. Actual physical location of Resource Center is still being considered. Motion to fund the basics (up to \$5,000) after other obligations of PTO are met. Motion approved. School Board has previously committed up to \$5,000 but source of funds is a bit unclear at this time. Perhaps USD students could work in the resource center.

Hospitality- The present \$200 food allotment for receptions for different events usually isn't enough. However, there was a general consensus that rather than increase the food budget, the food should be kept light and simple and PTO dollars should be kept for improvements. Julie Hollis suggested the Baking Committee from the FISH committees be approached to participate in these events. Also utilize high school students who need service hours and parents who work that want to participate. Julie Hollis has volunteered to help coordinate volunteers from the FISH program to meet the needs.

2. Committees

- a. **Hospitality:** Lillian Nadhir will continue to chair.
- b. **Christmas Parade Float: Silvina Salvage, Chair**
- c. **Gala-Chair** Kimberly McSherry. Many helpers will be needed! Valentine's Day theme.
- d. **Family Envelopes**-moving away from physical form once a month and just going electronic with hard copies available in the office. Volunteer and financial resources could better be spent in other efforts.
- e. **Publicity-Liz Gotfredson**
- f. **Art Literacy-Florence Galvani.** Trying to keep the schedule a bit more flexible because if Art Literacy is offered at the same time and day for all classrooms, substitutes are not available if cannot make it.
- g. **First in Math**-Florence would like to see this utilized more. Kids aren't really taken advantage of this.

3. Calendar Items:

- a. **Family Fun Night-** Lillian Nadhir and Karen Hsu co-chairs, Ava Conlin helping. Friday, September 24, 2010.
- b. **Spellathon:** Rosie Haggerty, Chair. Kickoff is September 20th.
- c. **Family Mentor Program:** Cathy Coe. Mentor Reception @6:00, Sept. 16th.
- d. **Faculty Appreciation Lunch** September 10th with 8th grade hosting
- e. **Back to School Night**-Thursday, September 16 at 7:00 pm. (Mentor Reception at 6:00.)
- f. **Back to School Coffee:** Chair: Lillian Nadhir, Wednesday, September 8th, at 8:15. Please be at your table, if you are in charge of a committee! Bernadette will print sign up sheets and bring pens.

Ongoing items

After school activities

First in Math, High school students available to help for educational support. If we approach the high schools, we can get on their list of approved charities for service hours. We need an organizer for this.

Hot Lunch-suggestion was made to rotate responsibility for coverage monthly.

Adjournment –10:00

President-Bernadette Brannigan
Vice President-Ann Killeen
Treasurer-Judy Bokhari
Secretary-Jennifer Oliver
Parliamentarian-possibly combined with secretary?
Room Mom Coordinators-Jeanne Culkin & Ann Kileen, unless others step up
Hospitality-Lillian Nadhir
Pizza-Angela Cortina and Theo Hauser
Hot Lunch-Sandra McGrath
Family Envelope - Debbie Eckmann & Marilyn Bosque, if hard copy continues
Health-Julie Hollis
Box Tops/Historian-Sandy Whalen
Community Outreach-Lyne Lewis
Star Gala-Kimberly McSherry
Publicity-Liz Gotfredson
Raffle-Open to a new chair with Liz helping
SCRIP-Jennifer Oliver
Christmas float-Silvina Savage
Open House-Lillian Nadhir
International Lunch-need volunteer
Grandparent's Day-Ellen Wayne, Fran Vargas
Family Mentor-Cathy Coe, unless another volunteers
AR-part of curriculum
Art Literacy-Florence Galvani
Sunshine Committee-Heather Canton
Family Fun Night-Lillian Nadhir, Karen Hsu
Milk – Julieta Thefeld