

St. Mary PTU Minutes
October 13, 2005

General Meeting - executive board in attendance: Haydiee Perkins-Burkes, Dan Humphrey, Cindy Finnegan, Annie Cunningham, Rick Knowlton, Rene Leighton, Colleen Elbert

Meeting called to order at 6:30p.m.

Opening prayer by Dan Humphrey

Haydiee gave an overview of how the meeting will run. She asked that everyone please sign in for the drawing. Also, Annie Heidersbach will be taking over membership for this year. She asked everyone to please stand and state their name when speaking as the acoustics are bad in the Parish Center.

Executive Board:

Annie Cunningham and Rick Knowlton - Vice Presidents

The magazine sale went well. We still have money outstanding from the postcards that the students sent out. So far, we have brought in \$20,942, but we got \$4,000 upfront from our profits and we have to take out prizes.

We are open to any new suggestions for fund raisers.

Cindy Finnegan - Treasurer

She passed out a sheet stating our current financial status. I have it attached to my minutes for anyone to view upon request.

We have approximately \$5600 for playground equipment.

Haydiee added that we paid out \$75.00 per teacher at the beginning of the year, money that we had from our magazine sale advance. She explained that it was a one time gift at the beginning of the year for the teacher to use as he/she saw fit and no receipts were required.

Colleen Elbert - Recording Secretary

I will now be recording any cards or notes that PTU receives in our minutes and keep them with my records for anyone to view upon request.

- We received a card from Becky Mittler and her parents thanking us for the \$500 scholarship that she was awarded last year. She is now a freshman at EC and the money was spent there. Received on 9-14-05.

- We received a thank you card from Jan Howell to Jan O'Dell (Programming) and PTU for the beautiful reception for the children who made their First Communion. Received 5-9-05.

- We received a note of thanks from Mrs. Brunkow (8th grade teacher) for all of the support and assistance in purchasing classroom items.

-We received a thank you card from Miss Larizza for naming one of the \$500.00 scholarships after her.

- We received a thank you note from Mrs. Harper (5th grade teacher) for the lunch we provided.

- We received a thank you note from Mrs. Kuebler (7th grade teacher) for the lunch we provided.
- We received a thank you card from Jan Howell for the purchase of the "Blessings of Faith" tapes. Received 6-6-05.

Ray Reidel - Corresponding Secretary

Ray was not present, but we noted that he is doing a great job on the newsletter. It is very nice to have the sports schedule listed.

Dan Humphrey - Principal

Halloween will be a blue and gold dress down day. The pep rally will be from 10:00 - 11:00 in the gym for all fall sports, everyone is invited.

The junior high held a car wash after school. The students got Principal Points and the money raised was used to purchase two tables for the Parish Center. We will eventually replace the old, heavy tables being used in there presently.

The school has a new mission statement. We are accredited by the state and needed to update. Our new statement includes Mary.

Dan had surveyed parents, students and teachers to point out our weaknesses and areas to improve. Dan will have the results available at meetings for anyone who is interested in viewing them. We have two goals, one is student learning which is focusing on the students expressing beliefs in class and Liturgy. The other is about our Catholic identity goal. Mike Moore will be helping explain more in classes about the actual parts of the Mass. Teachers will be showing the students where Father works, having Mrs. Cunningham teach the students church hymns in music class. The next part of that goal is improving writing skills. The students scored above average, yet the writing skills were lower than the other areas. We are going to try to visit the Chronicle Telegram for a field trip and have guest speakers visit to discuss areas of journalism and ways to improve writing skills. We may start writing clubs and have teacher in-services to improve skills, also. Sr. Lucia is our school superintendent and she has approved our list of goals to improve our school. It involves a lot of work.

Dan updated us on the Marketing for SMS. He has the funds to do more billboards. He is working on getting a commercial on TV. He will be finalizing it soon and can pick channels and times.

Dan gave out a survey for our new school parents. He spent about \$4,000-5,000 on Marketing and it has paid off in new students. Our new students came from mostly parent referrals and billboards and yard signs were second.

SMS purchased a sign for the Elyria Catholic Panthers football players to run underneath before the games. Dan was asked to speak to the players and he asked them to thank any SMS student that they see for the sign. He passed around a picture of the players running underneath the banner.

Question from Michele Flanigan - Is it true that St. Vincent de Paul School is closing?

Dan - Not that he has heard. The principal and pastor from the Catholic Schools in the vicinity meet once every quarter and it has not been mentioned. Dan also

stated that he would not accept any students from St. Vincent (unless there were severe circumstances) if he knew that they were trying to stay open. He stated that they have the biggest Bingo game in the state. The pastor there is very helpful to his families and will work with anyone who is having trouble making their tuition payments. He pointed out that their demographics are very different from ours.

Committee Reports:

Hospitality - Rosa

She has a sign-up sheet for people to contribute items for the teachers' lunch and dinner during conferences.

Thank you to Rosa for bringing soda to the meeting.

Room Parents - Lori St. Marie

She has contacted all of the room moms and will send out a schedule for parties as soon as she receives them from all of the teachers.

Membership - Annie Heidersbach

She is tallying the paid members and will call or send reminders to parents who have not yet sent in their dues.

We still have an unidentified envelope with \$7.00 cash inside.

Haydiee thanked Annie for taking on this position.

Library - Kelly Copa

She reminded us that the Scholastic Book Fair is beginning Nov. 6th and will run through conferences and the Junior High Pancake Breakfast. Volunteer forms were sent home.

Question from Kelly Copa - Kelly noted that the volunteer forms were sent out later rather than in the Back to School Packet. Did this make any difference in the number of forms returned?

Lori St. Marie said that yes, it did make a difference which is why she sent out the volunteer form again in hopes of getting more people to volunteer.

New Business:

Any requests made by individuals to present to the PTU will be added to the agenda. Haydiee added that any requests may be tabled until the executive board (which meets every other month by itself) has the opportunity to discuss it. Unless immediate action is needed, the executive board will make the final decision at it's meeting.

Annie Schill asked the PTU to donate to the landscaping for the Parish Center. They needed \$5100 and have all but \$1200. A picture of the design was shown to the people in attendance. Dan stated that the people in charge were focused on finishing other aspects of the building and fell short when it came to landscaping. October 28th is the planned date to finish. Annie stated that they have one donation which is contingent upon the raising of the rest of the cost. A

collection taken up at the Masses raised \$500.00. Annie Heidersbach suggested telling everyone about the "challenge" as it tends to motivate people. Dan stated that this particular donor is very finicky and may not take that well. Mike Wascovich asked if we donate to this, then what will be taking the money away from. Cindy Finnegan explained that we have \$1400 marked as miscellaneous. We would use it for the playground if nothing else comes up which deserves it. Haydiee added that at the end of the year requests come in and we can only carry over \$500 anyway. Jennifer Brown suggested giving the students a chance to contribute to the green space by having a "green" dress down day and donate "green" money. PTU could match the funds that the students collect. Dan stated that the most recent dress down day cost one dollar, but a two dollar donation put you in a drawing for Cavs tickets and it was a great incentive. It was decided that we would donate by matching the students' collection and they will have a "green" dress down day in November or December.

Kelly Copa asked about the playground and putting the old equipment back up. Rick Knowlton stated that it was very difficult to take apart and would be better for safety and liability if professionals put it back together. Plus we will add basketball hoops and other equipment so that the entire school can utilize the playground instead of just the younger children. The far back parking lot will be used for the new playground and will need new fencing and the rubber put underneath the equipment for safety. Donta Walker is working on gathering funds from corporations to cover the playground expenses. Dan Humphrey pointed out that the construction of the new playground goes with our theme for the year, "If we build it, He will come"

Our kindergarten students use chair covers which have pockets on the back for their supplies. They are in need of new ones. One of the students' grandmother has offered to make new ones if we can buy the material. She has gotten JoAnn Fabric to give her a discount. The grandmother is Marie Ochsner, the grandmother of Caitlyn Lindo. It will cost approximately \$728.00. The executive board will review our budget and decide.

Question from Elisha Doehr - Can the hours of extended day be extended?
Dan will discuss this with the extended day staff and get back to her.

Question from Jennifer Brown - Can you explain the Care and Share program?
Haydiee explained that Mrs. Babb and Mrs. Sellers have the students work together to discuss situations at home such as divorce and see if they can help each other by sharing their experiences and advice with each other. It uses peer mediation to help other students.

Annie Heidersbach will be taking over Membership and will be responsible for handling the attendance records at the general meetings and keeping track of the sheets for the end of the year drawing.

Old Business:

Question from Mrs. DeMarco - What happened to the gift certificate program?
Dan will contact Cathy Linkos and discuss this.

Meeting is adjourned at 7:30p.m.

Next meeting is November 17th, executive board only.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Colleen Elbert on October 14, 2005.