

St Mary's Academy Parent Guild Meeting
March 10, 2015, 7:00 pm
Durocher Library

Present: Kristi Cumming, Candace Partyka, Susan Yurkiw, Connie Yunyk, Leslie Finch, Colleen Mc Fadden, Lidia Erickson, Pam Knysh, Sharon Godenir, Tracy Labossiere, Kathleen Reid, Elaine Mordoch, Shannon LeGrange, and Leesa Sylvestre

Call to order at 7:07 pm by Kristi Cumming.

Approval of February 03, 2015 minutes

Motion to approve minutes approved by Colleen McFadden, seconded by Lydia Erickson

Guild President's Report

- Subcommittee Meetings
 - President and VP have met with chairs of following subcommittees: bingo, tartan shop and corner store
 - Thank you to the chairs for providing feedback and suggestions going forward
- Thanks to Pam Kynsh for all her work in revamping the online registration system and sign up procedure. There is a leaner meaner volunteer process for 2015-16
- Reporting template
 - To facilitate the process of subcommittee reporting, President and VP will be working to create a standard template that can be used to provide feedback for meetings
- Many thanks to Leslie Finch our guild/board liaison for her three years in this role. Leslie will not be renewing her term in the fall, but will continue as a member at large on the guild
- Nomination committee has been struck and will be confirming candidates for position of 2nd vice president/volunteer coordinator, treasurer and secretary for SMA Guild Executive 2015-16 and will present slate at May general meeting

School President Report

School life – options meeting complete, re-registration deadline March 20, 2015.

Admissions new – two testing sessions, and two interview days and make up tests tomorrow.

Great grade 7 numbers about 100 applicants.

Grade 9 applicants will have an extra class – new applications for grade 9 mid 30's for the coming school year but usually between 35 and 45. Need to do more advertising and recruiting.

Will see who will not be returning by March 20, 2015, to determine availability of student spots.

Safe grad preps well under way.

Extended student field trip – 14 students went to Japan in February.

Minneapolis student trip – leaving this Friday morning - 77 from SMA including teachers , chaperones, and students.

Team El Salvador – 18 students and 3 teacher chaperones in July 2015.

Sports teams – hockey team in finals.

Hockey prep team hosting third annual hockey challenge

- Girls' hockey team game schedule is available online.
- Tomorrow giving out 100 tickets to girls on first come, first served basis; feature game on Friday night at MTS Iceplex.

Indoor track team and basketball events happening this month.

Heritage Fair – grade 9's history fair is an all day event Thursday, March 12, 2015.

Lenten journey – school is having daily Lenten reflections. On Wednesday, April 8, mass will be held by Richard Gagnon.

Library technician – girls brought in 1000 books for childrens' book fair.

Mission club collected food for donation.

Maternity leave for two teachers – Laura Davey and Catherine David; Ms Dyck-Lyons will be returning from maternity leave to be a resource teacher.

On Leave – Ms. Garlinski on leave to Oakland, California. SMA is looking for a one year replacement of her position.

School budget set and approved for next year ; tuition increase of \$ 200, for a total annual tuition of \$ 6950.

Sister Susan's wish list – purchasing live streaming equipment.,along with other items from the 2014-15 wish list.

Grad angels – supplier of grad angels provided some alternative options going forward. Would like to look at creating something different starting in 2016.

Treasurer's Report

Corner store is one of the main operations in the guild – please see attached financial reports.

*\$ 18,000 in lottery bank account; funds will be disbursed by June including purchase of video streaming equipment.

Not much financial activity after International Day.

Board Liaison Report

Board meeting was Tuesday, March 03, 2015.

The board covered various items including: executive reports regarding strategic and operational plan overview, new strategic plan deadline for June 2015, nomination and governance – to finalize upcoming board composition for 2015-2016, board governance policy document circulated to board, finances – SMA financial statements for January 31, 2015 were presented and approved, SMA budget and tuition fees for 2015-2016 were presented and approved, legal structure review committee – verbal presentation of ongoing legal structure of SMA and other catholic schools under the Archdiocese of Winnipeg. Other reports presented and items of information included : president/principal / guild / alumnae/ pension & benefits. Report on 5 year strategic planning process –discussion and overview.

Nativity School Project – in core area school grade 6 to 8 school. WAS THIS PART OF LESLIE'S REPORT??? OTHERWISE PERHAPS MOVE TO NEW BUSINESS?

Will be a middle school in Jesuit tradition, independent school, serve children of lower socio economic resources with untapped potential to do well in life. Either in the core area or just outside the core area. Nativity schools all over North America.

New school named Gonzaga Middle School of Winnipeg. Next stage is to find a facility – empty school or renovated building in targeted area. Scheduled to open September 2017. Target to admit graduates from Gonzaga to SMA for the 2018 and 2019 school years.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Bingo Report

Volunteerism for Bingo events has dropped significantly; last few bingo evenings have been challenging to get necessary SMA volunteers attending bingos. This is a major source of funds for the school. Must regroup to determine strategy and encourage more volunteers.

Corner Store Report

To review samples and bring in new items; place an order shortly for these new items.

Hospitality

Three events left this year staff appreciation, carnival and convocation.

Tartan Shop

Retail items to include heavy tights, scrunchies and hair bands.

Evening sale Tuesday, April 21, from 5 to 7 pm for existing students.

May 27 and 28 for new students.

They have a lot of volunteers for that evening but more are welcome.

Volunteer Report

Created a more efficient on line sign up form for volunteers, no more paper forms to be submitted for input. Lists will be electronically passed along to various sub-committees.

The system has been cleaned up so as to remove graduating families and those no longer at the school., therefore parents will have to sign up annually.

Previous action items

1) Connie Yunyk – looking to commit / book speaker for May 2015 following May guild meeting.

Amanda Todd speaker has not responsive, so looking to book another speaker.

2) Candace Partyka – Connie to contact Tess Blakey from Canadian Mental Health Association.

3) Capital expenditures to take place by the end of June.

4) Nomination committee process planning successions.

New business

Report template for committees to be in place for the 2015-16 school year.

Volunteer appreciation – nothing was held last year (because of Sister Susan's retirement); perhaps hospitality can host this. It has been hosted by the guild in the past. Different formats were discussed ...during the day, right after school or evening.

Tentatively decided volunteer appreciation could be June 2 right after school. This is specifically for guild volunteers and not school volunteers. Will decide what the parameters are to fund the volunteer appreciation.

Grad angels – supplier of grad angels provided some alternative options going forward. Would like to look at creating something different starting in 2016.

Corner store signage

Consider new signage for corner store to be updated.

Tartan shop letters can be made in school tartan pattern.

Corner Store - Place outside the door in the hallway and inside the cafeteria; change name of corner store.

Sharon and Kristi to investigate on signage for corner store – design and pricing.

Grade 7 Parent Event

Grade 7 parent event – executive had brainstorming session to host an event to welcome families into the school. It is especially important to welcome them if they do not come from feeder school.

Discussed having a grade 7 parent event when children are at camp. This will not be an evening of fundraising, no volunteer signup, strictly a social evening; it will be facilitated by SMA Guild – hospitality committee and other volunteers. Older grades may be involved in food prep, serving, etc. around 23rd or 24th of September. Consider grade 9 as another grade year to host a welcoming event for new families. Grade 7 biggest influx. Stay tuned for more details.

Marian awards

Kathleen to remind to make a motion to sponsor table on an annual basis. Annual event to purchase tickets for a parent guild table (\$ 520 for the table), to confirm if price has changed.

Susan to confirm purchase price of one table. Susan to contact ticket seller.

Meeting adjourned by Kristi Cumming at 8:30 pm.