

St Mary's Academy Parent Guild Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2015

Present: Kristi Cumming, Candace Partyka, Pam Knysh, Connie Yunyk, Kelly Moon, Christa Giesbrecht, Kathy Degan, Georgine Gaudes, Roger Morcilla, Barb Adamkowicz, Will Hall, Eileen Eng, Mary Fustey, Susan Chyzzy, Lidia Erikson, Jacquie Rados, Shannon Roberts, Claudia Davies, Lucia Moon, Carmela Buccini, Lorraine Koltek, Shauna Mallory

Meeting called to order at 7:48 pm by Kristi Cumming, Parent Guild President

Motion to accept previous minutes from May 5th, 2015 Kathy Degan, seconded by Candace Partyka

Alumnae and Advancement Committee – Georgine Gaudes

*Discussed the Burning Bright Speaker Series. The first speaker is Sister Susan on October 1, 2015 at 5:30pm. She will be speaking on “50 years of Religious Life and Ministry – Reflections.” Cost is \$20.00 and wine and appetizers will be served. The second presentation is scheduled for November 19th and will be a 5 person panel discussion entitled “Beyond the Truth and Reconciliation Commission: What can we do to Advance Reconciliation”. Cost is \$20.00

* Evening at the Academy: First annual progressive dinner fundraiser in support of the bursary fund which will take place at SMA on Saturday January 30th, 2016 at 5:00pm. On-line ticket sales will open September 28th with a cost of \$175.00/person

Executive Committee Reports

Parent Guild President - Kristi Cumming :

- Welcomed all new parents.
- Introduced new committee chairs
Corner Store: Chair - Lidia Erickson, Volunteers – Shannon LeGrange
Finance - Catherine Filmon , Clothing – Joanne Abbot
Hospitality: Cathryn Ekdhal, Cindy Rodych, Richere O’Shea
International Day: Claudia Davies and Ramona Thomson – Co-chairs
Kathy Degan and Coral White – Rainbow Auction
International Day Raffle: Mary Fustey and Eileen Eng
- Meet the Teacher – Wednesday September 16th

VP Volunteers – Christa Giesbrecht:

- Transition meeting with previous Volunteer Chair Pam Knysh on July 5th.
- Sent out volunteer lists to all the volunteer co-ordinators for their perspective areas on August 11.
- Sent out an email to all the new parents who had indicated that they would like more information about our volunteer areas in the beginning of September. Have had subsequent emails and phone conversations with a few of them.

- An updated parent volunteer list will be sent out to all the volunteer coordinators at the end of September. To date we have 103 volunteers signed up.

President St Mary's Academy – Connie Yunyk

- Discussed staffing changes
- 585 students which includes one student from Germany who will be here until Christmas
- Numerous repairs and maintenance projects completed recently some of which include upgrades to staff lounge, stairwells, replacement of solid classroom doors with doors with windows, new roofing south side of building, new energy efficient boiler system, upgrades to the cafeteria.
- Communication: New Torch Light magazine completed and sent out, working on new promotion and recruitment video, would like an updated website by next summer
- Highlighted Burning Bright Speaker Series and Night at the Academy
- Strategic Planning at the Board level – Request of proposals from a variety of consultants. “What should SMA look like 20 years from now?”

Individual Committee Reports – Candace Partyka

- Bingo
 - Reinforced need for more volunteers
 - 40 volunteers on list
 - Committee is investigating possibility of using a management software system called Volunteer Spot where volunteers would be e-mailed with upcoming dates and could sign up on-line
- Corner Store
 - New sign is up.
 - Now open 5 days/week
 - Apparel has been replenished
 - Working on obtaining Navy Russell hoodies with chenille and embroidered lettering
- International Day
 - Confirmed Convenor /Pavillion list. Trying to add a Greek Pavillion
 - Streamlined the money handling. Torch Bucks will be used for all pavilions, bake sale and canteen. Tickets for Rainbow Auction will be sold alongside the Torch Bucks
 - Meeting scheduled for September 22 at 7:00 for all convenors
 - Co-Chairs will be getting Food Handling Licence and then will provide education to all pavilion chairs.
 - Looking at different marketing strategies
- International Day Lottery
 - Raffle tickets picked up and they will be handed out to the students on September 29th.
 - One book/student
 - Raffle will take place at International Day at 3:00
- Tartan Shop
 - Starting this year payment can be made with Visa, Mastercard, interac or cash. No cheques
 - Volunteer schedule is completed until the end of May

Board Liason Report – Colleen McFadden

- Introduction of Colleen McFadden

- First Board meeting is Tuesday September 15, 2015

Welcome Night Grade 7 Parents

- Expecting over 100 parents
- Wine and appy's with special activities planned
- Date: September 24th ,2015
- Brand new event so it was started with the Grade 7's. If successful will look at possibility of expanding the event to include the other grades with new students

Meeting adjourned at 8:52pm