

St Mary's Academy Parent Guild Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2016

Present: Candace Partyka, Pam Knysh, Connie Yunyk, Kelly Moon, Christa Giesbrecht, Debbie Styles, Georgine Van de Mosselaer, Barb Adamkowicz, Mary Fustey, Lidia Erikson, Shauna Mallory, Lucia Whitney, Carmela Buccini, Lorraine Koltek, Colleen McFadden

Meeting called to order at 7:26 pm by Candace Partyka, Parent Guild President

Motion to accept previous minutes from May 3rd, 2016 Kelly Moon, seconded by Christa Giebrecht

Alumni and Advancement Committee – Georgine Van de Mosselaer

*Discussed the Oct 1st Homecoming as well as Burning Bright Speaker Series Oct.18th. The first speaker is Sister Lesley Sacouman from House of Peace, Topic “The Transformative Power of Mercy”

*Cocktails on the Crescent is back, has not been run since 2006, date is Nov 19th, 2016.

* Evening at the Academy: Second annual progressive dinner fundraiser in support of the bursary fund which will take place at SMA on Saturday January 28th, 2016 at 5:30pm. On-line ticket sales will open Oct. 4th

Executive Committee Reports

Parent Guild President - Candace Partyka :

- Welcomed all new parents.
- Introduced new committee chairs
Corner Store: Chair - Lidia Erickson
Hospitality: Cathryn Ekdhal & Richere O’Shea
International Day: Ramona Thomson & Heidi Chubeck– Co-chairs
International Day Raffle: Mary Fustey & Eileen Eng
Special Events: Kristi Cumming & Stephanie Gordon – Co-chairs
- Family Event/Meet the Teacher – Friday September 9th
- After School Special – Thursday September 22nd
- International Day – Saturday Nov 6th
- Bingo – need for volunteers

VP Volunteers – Christa Giesbrecht:

- Using new volunteer management system called “Sign Up” (formerly Volunteer Spot)

President St Mary's Academy – Connie Yunyk

- Discussed staffing changes
- 575 students
- Bursaries of a possible \$320,000 awarded (68 bursaries awarded/8 pending)

- Numerous repairs and maintenance projects completed recently some of which include cafeteria lighting, new lockers in one locker room, new countertops in foods, biology and chem labs, 2nd floor re-waxing, new floor and treads on 2002 stairwell by Chapel
- Renovations included re-configuration of Corner Store space and President's kitchen
- Communication: New Torch Light magazine completed, will be in mailboxes week of Sept. 12th
- Highlighted Gonzaga Middle School 15 students enrolled, very positive media attention of late thanks to Mark Chipman
 - soft opening with school families and board members on Sept 6th
 - Grand Opening for wider community to be held on Sept 27th

Individual Committee Reports – Kelly Moon

- Bingo
 - Reinforced need for more volunteers
 - Committee will be using a management software system called Sign Up where volunteers would be e-mailed with upcoming dates and can sign up on-line
- Corner Store
 - Renovations almost complete.
 - Apparel not selling has been removed from inventory.
 - Working on sourcing apparel that appeals to alumnae and current students (ie tartan scarf and varsity jacket)
 - \$1,285 merchandise sold 1st day open after reno's
- International Day
 - Confirmed Convenor /Pavilion list. Adding 2 new pavilions Palestine/Lebanese & French Canadian (Germany and Greece not returning)
 - New set up for bake sale and coffee bar, now located in front foyer by rainbow and art auction to create café vibe
 - Meeting scheduled for October 13 at 6:00 to review food handling
 - Door prizes will be offered for people in attendance at Entertainment Venue to stimulate attendance
- International Day Lottery
 - Raffle tickets picked up and they will be handed out to the students on September 27th.
 - One book/student
 - Raffle will take place at International Day at 3:00
- Tartan Shop
 - Volunteer schedule is completed until the end of May

Board Liason Report – Colleen McFadden

- Introduction of Colleen McFadden
- First Board meeting is Monday Sept 26, 2016

After School Special - New Parent Night

- 136 invites sent to new families in grades 7-12 (Aug 23rd)
- Wine and appetizers with special activities planned
- Date: September 22nd 7pm 2016
- 2nd year running a similar event, in 2015 was just for grade 7 parents, this year all new parents are invited.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37pm

Next meeting scheduled for Oct. 11 at 7pm