

St Mary's Academy Parent Guild Meeting Minutes

Jan 9, 2017

Present: Debbie Styles, Connie Yunyk, Kelly Moon, Kristi Cumming, Colleen McFadden, Lorraine Koltek, Lidia Erickson

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by Kelly Moon, Parent Guild Vice President

Motion to accept previous minutes from October 11, 2016 Lidia Erickson and seconded by Kristi Cumming

Executive Committee Reports

Parent Guild President – Candace Partyka:

Happy New Year! Thank you for all your contributions and support in 2016. In our year as “people of hope” we have much to look forward to in 2017.

Although November feels like a long time ago, since our December meeting was cancelled I'd like to mention a few highlights from International Day.

1. Roughly 875 attended on a +16 November day! Attendance was down a bit from last year however ...
2. we made slightly more money which means that those who attended spent more.
3. We had 250 (!!!) volunteers. This year all the volunteer scheduling was done using SignUp.com. This was new for us and it went well. We are now extending the use of this program to the Corner Store.
4. Two new pavilions: French Canadian & Lebanese. Both were well received and have indicated they will be back.
5. The entertainment was diverse and outstanding. We increased the audience numbers (which we felt were low in the past) by offering a free raffle ticket to students/kids who attended and draws for amazing prizes were made through out the show. There were 250+ people in the audience.
6. The Corner Store had record breaking sales!

International Day's success is measured not only in numbers but more importantly by the sense of community that is generated and expanded by this event. This years' celebration of our school community's ethnic diversity was especially meaningful as we watched our neighbours

to the south struggle with these issues in the 2016 election. We celebrated our differences and came away a stronger community. Thank you to the event Chair Ramona Thomson and Co-Chair Heidi Chuback for their tireless efforts and meticulous attention to detail. Thanks also to Scott Greenlay for bringing greetings from the Board to the event.

Looking ahead ...

Saturday, January 21 from 9 – 12 the Parents' Guild hosts its' second Torch Talks event: Leading by Love: Raising Kids with Social Conscience. Speakers include: Mitch Bourbonniere, Sister Michelle Garlinski and Elder Mary Wilson. Please RSVP by January 14th at torchtalk@stmarysacademy.mb.ca

The Parents' Guild will support "Evening at the Academy" by wrapping wine bottles and contributing the ingredients and making fudge. Fudge making will be Wednesday, January 11 at 5PM and wine bottle wrapping is Monday, January 23rd at 8:30. Anyone available to help out please speak to Kelly.

President's Report – Connie Yunyk

1. Student and Program News

- Recent successes – Drama, VB, Debate, Hockey
- Pant Option investigated with students (pant samples displayed and survey results attached) – How should we proceed? Reminder, this was one of the top priorities for students when surveyed during the Strat Plan data gathering stage!
- Planning for Open House – Tuesday January 31, 2017
- FWSSC – 8 teams confirmed for the fifth annual international tournament – March 16 – 19, 2017
- Charism and Mission Office –
 1. St. John's Bible (in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, SMA will co-host St. John's Bible tour in Winnipeg....more details to follow)
 2. SMA hosting Public Way of the Cross – Good Friday April 14, 2017

2. Advancement and Alumnae Affairs

- Alumnae Association planned and hosted three very successful events – Homecoming, Cocktails on the Crescent and December Celebration & Christmas Tea. Paint Nite – March 3, 2017 – tickets available on-line
- EVENING AT THE ACADEMY - Saturday January 28, 2017 – 2nd annual progressive dinner with net proceeds to Bursary Fund, is sold out. Thank you Parents' Guild

for purchasing a table and sponsoring the fudge as part of our take-away gift for guests!

- Burning Bight Speaker's series – April 20, 2017 featuring Father Sam Argenziano – stay tuned for details
- GENERATIONS DAY (new event) – Tuesday April 25, 2017, planning committee has met and working on event details!
- MARIAN AWARDS – Saturday May 13 – The Gates on Roblin, details to be released soon

3. Varia

- PowerSchool (Student Info System) has been purchased and will be fully implemented in September 2017. Currently School Office, Admissions and IT are testing various packages, staff will begin PD in May!
- Luscious Orange continues to develop phase 1 of website – public face of new website will be launched in March, with phase 2(SMA community access) to be developed during the 2017-2018 school year.
- SMA Strategic Plan – launched to community by end of January, 2017 – Communications and Marketing currently working on public document
- Archdiocese of Winnipeg Board of Consultors – Archbishop appointed me to be a member of this group whose consultative responsibility is to facilitate and promote the archdiocesan vision of Catholic schools and to foster good governance through the making of recommendations of policies and regulations. The Board of Consultors will make recommendations to the Archbishops in the following areas; Vision, Planning, Policy Development, Public Relations, Political Advocacy
- Ms Alyssa Nabess and Mrs. Alfina Grande teaching in French Dept, working exceptionally well. Ms. Giuliana Grande, recent Fine Arts Grad, teaching in Fine Arts Dept until further notice.

Individual Committee Reports – Kelly Moon

Bingo: We received some unfortunate news in regards to Bingo. In mid-Dec the school was notified that due to the fact that bingo players have moved away from using paper bingo cards and are now using electronic bingo cards, the volunteer program is no longer required. Manitoba liquor and lotteries will be trying to look at other alternatives to the Bingo Volunteer Program. Thank you to Gwen Lawrence for all of her hard work in obtaining the volunteers from St Marys.

Corner Store: Corner Store sales were very good during the month of November. ID sales were \$1460 Parent Teacher Conferences had \$1900 and sales at the Charlie Brown Musical were \$500.

Great response for the Varsity Jacket order. 40 jackets were ordered and distributed the week leading up to Christmas break.

Some changes are on the horizon for the Corner Store. The amount of available candy for purchase starting in the new year will be downsized to only 4 options and the Parents' Guild Executive in conjunction with the Corner Store committee are exploring some other healthy snack options to sell.

International Day and Lottery: The executive would like to thank Mary Fustey and Eileen Eng for their hard work in making the ID lottery a huge success. Both have fulfilled 2 years on this committee and we will be looking at finding a new chair and co-chair for the upcoming school year.

Huge Thank you to Ramona Thomson and Heidi Chuback for a successful ID. Heidi has agreed to Chair International Day next year and we will be in need of a co-chair to work along side Heidi.

Hospitality: Committee is busy preparing for the Open House coming up on Jan 31st followed by the Staff Appreciation luncheon in February.

Tartan Shop: All is well in the Tartan Shop

Special Events: Huge thank you to Kristi Cumming and Charmaine Cancilla who have worked extremely hard at producing another amazing line up of speakers for this years Torch Talks entitled "Raising Kids with Social Conscience – Leading by Love."

Torch Talks: set for Saturday January 21st. We have approx. 30 RSVP to date. Please ensure that if you plan to attend to RSVP so we can plan refreshments appropriately. A light breakfast will be served.

Reminders are being sent out weekly in the Communique and the info will also be available on the Reader Board.

Board Liason Report – Colleen McFadden

Board is working on preparations for a new Strategic Plan. The Board wishes to extend deep gratitude and appreciation to everyone on the Parents' Guild for their outstanding work and dedication.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm.

Next meeting Tuesday Feb 7th at 7pm.