

## St Mary's Academy Parent Guild Meeting Minutes

Feb 7th, 2017

Present: Debbie Styles, Connie Yunyk, Kelly Moon, Carmela Buccini, Colleen McFadden, Tammy Zach, Lidia Erickson, Candace Partyka, Christa Giesbrecht

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Candace Partyka, Parent Guild President

Motion to accept previous minutes from 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017 Kelly Moon and seconded by Debbie Styles

### **Executive Committee Reports**

#### **Parent Guild President – Candace Partyka:**

January has been a busy month! Saturday, January 21st the Guild hosted its second Torch Talks. The theme this year was “Leading by Love: Raising Kids with Social Conscience.” The speakers – Mitch Bourbonniere, Sister Michele Garlinski and Elder Mary Wilson – were outstanding and their messages were meaningful and resonated with parents. 51 people attended the event. I would like to extend my gratitude to Kristi Cumming and Charmaine Cancilla for co-chairing such a warm and hospitable event. I would also like to thank Connie Yunyk for her support of this event. A survey was sent to those who attended and we’ve gotten some helpful feedback. We look forward to next year’s event that will be co-chaired by Charmaine Cancilla and Nancy Shippam.

On January 28<sup>th</sup> the members of the Guild Executive attended ‘Evening at the Academy’. We were happy to be able to contribute to this event by donating the nun’s fudge that was made by a group of volunteers. This fudge was a take-away gift for each guest at the event. Volunteers also wrapped wine bottles, which were used in the ‘Wall of Wine’ at the event. “Evening at the Academy’ was a lovely evening and an amazing amount of money was raised for the bursary fund.

The Guild participated in this year’s Open House. We had tables both in the alcove in the atrium where we showed our Guild video and a table in the cafeteria. It was lots of fun to meet prospective parents and students. Their energy and enthusiasm was palpable! Thanks to the Hospitality Committee for their contribution in hosting the event.

It’s time to look ahead to next year. There will be vacancies that will need to be filled. To that end, a Nomination Committee will be struck. Connie Yunyk and two members of the parent community will chair the committee. Here are lists of the positions that will need to be filled:

- Vice-president, Parents’ Guild

- Chair, Corner Store
- Chair, International Day Lottery
- Co-Chair, International Day
- Chair, Hospitality

Looking ahead, the Guild will again this year be purchasing a table at the Marian Awards, Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Gates.

### **Miscellaneous**

In an effort to comply with the practices of other SMA Boards and to ensure responsible Guild Executive governance, Kelly and I are working on a “Volunteer Code of Conduct” document. This would be for the Guild Executive and volunteers in Chair positions and would ensure that they understand the scope of their responsibilities and the expectations of their position. This document should be ready by the end of the school year.

### **President’s Report – Connie Yunyk**

1. Tadadada.....Strat Plan – this is our roadmap for the next 5 years, it is an exciting, inspirational and BIG! As some of you may know, the last two Strategic Plans were focused on upgrading the facility and increasing the footprint of the school.....very successful!
2. Power School implementation – by the end of this week our initial configuration will be completed, a phased-in implementation for the school will be gradual over the next several months with our “go-live” date on July 5. Soon faculty will be able to have access to tutorials....and our May PD session will partially be used to have a PS expert provide a faculty-wide PD session remotely.
3. March P/T conferences—we have purchased Soft School Inquiry system for P/T conferences coming up in March – this is the test-stage of the migration over to online P/T conference bookings and hope to fully implement next year!
4. Website—We have been working at an exhausting pace with Luscious Orange to have the website ready to launch after Spring Break (show navigation site map).....this first phase is the public face of our school....consider it our online marketing pamphlet, next year we will work on phase 2 – the community site.....access by teachers/parents/students to student progress/attendance and other cool and interesting info pertaining to your daughters.
5. Working feverishly and diligently on School board budget and Foundation budget and getting my President’s Wish List ready for June! Drafting a very, very conservative budget, with very modest increase in tuition – to keep faithful to the SNJM’s goal to keep our school accessible
6. EAA – I am very pleased to announce that our net profit from the event was slightly more than \$100K, of which \$87,500 will go to MMR bursary.....a big success in so many

ways....it is a great feeling to know that many, many people around us believe in what we do and who we are...it's very empowering and inspiring to have the trust and confidence of our community

7. Varia

1. Open House: very successful – thank you PG....let's see how this translates now with deadline on Friday
2. New course offerings – Grade 10: Intro to Interactive Digital Media(followed by intermediate and advanced), 40S Economics, AP Psychology as well as Psychology, offering 40S Family Studies at the Grade 11 level
3. Pant option – meeting with Dineen and Cindy on Thursday to discuss this a bit more
4. Something in the water this year - 3 MAT leaves(2 starting in mid to late April), 3 retirement announcements so far – actively recruiting and interviewing prospective teachers and staff
5. SMA hosting following events:
  1. Catholic Schools Day Feb 17 – A CALL TO RECONCILIATION
  2. March 19 – part of St. Paul's College Hanley Lecture Series – we will have the original St. John's Bible here in Alumnae Hall and then on loan for several weeks.....hammering out details – illuminating and gilded...stunning work of art
  3. April 14 – Good Friday – SMA and our Office of Charism and Mission – organizing Public Way of the Cross – route around the neighborhood with 14 stations, where we stop, sing and pray! Truly a moving experience and expression of unity
8. Remember to look for members for NGC

**Individual Committee Reports – Kelly Moon**

**Bingo:** The volunteer program is no longer required. Manitoba liquor and lotteries will be trying to look at other alternatives to the Bingo Volunteer Program.

**Corner Store:** The amount of available candy for purchase has been downsized to only 4 options. The Parents' Guild Executive in conjunction with the Corner Store committee are exploring some other healthy snack options to sell. Review of new online volunteer sign up system – some growing pains/gaps identified; committee is working to address these challenges. Review of credit/debit processing for the Corner Store – goal to implement new system this spring.

**Hospitality:** The Open House is now completed and we are working on the Staff Appreciation Luncheon which will occur on February 14th. We will meet this week to finalize details. After the Staff Appreciation Luncheon we will be focusing on the New Student Uniform Sale.

**Tartan Shop:** All is well in the Tartan Shop

**Torch Talks:** Looking at increasing attendance for next years event and best ways to achieve this.

**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 8:04pm.

Next meeting Tuesday Mar 7th at 7pm.