

St Mary's Academy Parent Guild Meeting Minutes

Mar 7th, 2017

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

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm by Candace Partyka, Parent Guild President

Motion to accept previous minutes from 7th Feb 2017 Kelly Moon and seconded by Kristi Cumming

Sister Michelle Garlinski

1. "Public Way of the Cross" – SMA is hosting and sponsoring this event, community faith building experience as 100's carry cross throughout the neighborhood.
2. St. Johns Bible – 1st hand written bible in the last 500 years, Welch artist brings this work of art to life, 290 copies of heritage version only, SMA to host the bible and lecture on Mar 19th

Executive Committee Reports

Parent Guild President – Candace Partyka:

Another month has flown by. Kelly and I have been working on the Volunteer Code of Conduct. The Corner Store is now using the Square and so has the ability to take credit. Volunteer training will begin soon. The Corner Store Committee has also been busy researching merchandise options and has put together a great looking spring order. Kelly and I met with Kristi, Charmaine and Shannon (the co-chairs of Torch Talks). They have begun laying the groundwork for year's event. Last week I attended the Federation of Independent Schools dinner. The Guild has been invited to be part of Generation's Day April 25th by having the Corner Store open and providing some hospitality volunteers. This is a great opportunity for us to welcome another generation to the SMA community.

Coming up we have the Spring Sale April 25th and the Marion Awards Saturday, May 13. The Guild will have a table at this event. And looking ahead to graduation, the Guild will again this year sponsor each graduate's meal at the brunch.

President's Report – Connie Yunyk

1. Management:

1. Amy Houston – baby girl born in November – Kerri Moore assumed Alumnae Affairs Coordinator position and Alex Logan hired as Office Assistant

2. Three Maternity Leaves beginning in April – Mrs. Falconer, Mrs. David (second child) and Ms. Davey (second child). We are actively looking for two term replacements until June 30.
3. Three retirement announcements – Mrs. Epp (teacher), Mrs. Duffy (School Secretary), Sister Josephine Chudzik (Purchasing/accounting office)
4. Admissions closed, numbers look good over all. Entrance tests and Family interviews going well and will be completed by Spring Break.
5. Re-registration of current students will be emailed to families on Tuesday March 14, once tuition has been set at the March 13 School Board meeting
6. Web site to be launched post Spring Break, on schedule
7. Update of Employment Manual for Faculty coming along, hopefully a draft for the Executive's perusal will be available for May Executive meeting.
8. Draft budget process for both SMA School and SMA Foundation Boards is now complete (drafts have been presented and accepted by both finance and executive committees) and will be presented at board meetings on March 13 and April 4 respectively.

2. Strategic Plan Update:

1. Connie Yunyk in process of meeting with board representatives to establish Terms of Reference for each goal
2. Well-Being goal- Committee consisting of Board members (Leanne Boyd and Colleen McFadden) and faculty met on February 24. Next steps include engaging the services of CYS to create appropriate and meaningful surveys for parents, students and staff/faculty. Membership from each group will be used in the actual design process and general input. Estimated date of survey launch – week following May long weekend!
3. Academic Excellence and Innovation – Coordinator of Innovation continuing her work with Departments and program inventory. Board representative is Danielle Kolton.
4. Identity – working closely with Sister Michelle to develop framework for this goal. Mabini Paktakhan is board representative. Sister Michelle planning Board Retreat on Charism and Mission for Saturday 6 at the CMHR.

3. GONZAGA MIDDLE SCHOOL OF WINNIPEG

1. Year is going very well....17 students have 95-98% attendance rate and tracking of academic and social-emotional progress is exceptional
2. I was on hiring committee for Grade 7 teacher on February 24 and 25. Very good candidates were interviewed. Tom Lussier will make offer of employment this week.
3. Kyle Mason has joined the GMS Board of Directors – he is the Founder and Executive Director of the North End Family Centre.
4. Next meeting and retreat – Friday May 26 – 27.

4. Other

1. In compliance with PG By-laws, I met with 2 parents from the parent community to form a Nominating Committee for two vacant positions for the 2017-2018 school year. On Wednesday March 1, I met with Lidia Erikson and Mary Fustey to confirm nominations for second VP and Secretary Positions. Report will be presented at the May 6th meeting (which I cannot attend, Mrs. Klus will attend)
2. Evening at the Academy – a great success, raising over \$100,000 in net revenue, of which \$87,000 goes directly to Bursary! Plans are already under way for next year.
3. FWSSC March 16-19 – IcePlex – President’s Office, Advancement and Communications ramping up in support of the 5th annual tournament. 8 teams from across Canada and USA. Promotion among SMA student body, SPHS, local girls’ hockey teams in general is being highly and actively promoted. To date - \$22,000+ in cash donations and \$48,000+ in in-kind donations
4. Inaugural event – April 25 – Generations Day – inviting “generational mentors” of our current Grades 7 and 9 students to spend half a day here with their granddaughter.
5. May 13 – Marian Awards of Excellence at The Gates on Roblin – honoring the Class of 1965. Tickets available online on SMA website.
6. May 16 – Burning Bright Speaker’s Series – Father Sam Argenziano will speak on “Living the Beatitudes”

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: Thanks to the Moon Family for donating an iPad mini so that The Square credit card processing can launch. Soft launch will begin during Parent-Teacher Interviews. Amount of available candy for purchase has been 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. The Square will only be available during “special events” when a committee member is working. Spring orders are being discussed and marketing/branding still in development. Securing volunteers is still a challenge. Sales of Kernels popcorn will be tested as a new menu item in the near future. Varsity Jackets will be available for special order again in April. Candace will be sourcing a wall decal for the CS to be installed prior to end of school year.

Hospitality: Committee Coordinators: Cathryn Ekdahl, Richere O'Shea, Nicky White and Devon Ostir

Date of next meeting: Beginning of May to discuss New Student Uniform Sale

Action Items Completed:

SMA Staff Appreciation Luncheon – February 14th, 2017

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

New Student Uniform Sale – May 29th & May 31st, 2017

Announcements:

Questions for the board/larger group:

Other Notes:

SMA Hospitality 2016/2017 Events and Dates

Parents' Guild Christmas Party - Tuesday, December 6th @ 6-9pm - Cancelled

SMA Open House - January 31st @ 7pm - Completed

Staff Appreciation Luncheon - February 14TH @ 12:35-1:35 - Completed

Spring Uniform Sale – May 29th & May 31st

Convocation - June 28th

Tartan Shop: The meeting with Connie was informative and the want of pants is there by the students.

Deneen & Cindy did suggest that the pants not be held as a stocked item, but rather ordered by the students in September. This way they would acquire the needed size in the fall for wear in the winter, and would have the item most likely in time to for winter uniform dates (after Thanksgiving). Our feeling was that the best use of the pants would likely be in January through March.

Also , there would be sizes to try on after school opening and the student's could order pants during the school year, as with any item.

Board Liason Report – Colleen McFadden

Asked for minutes to be ready by Monday, March 13th for next Board Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49pm.

Next meeting Tuesday May 2nd at 7pm.