

St Mary's Academy Parents' Guild Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 05, 2019
Durocher Library

In attendance: Ramona Thompson, Venus Denis, Anita Auriti, Joanie Smalley, Connie Yunyk, Mel Jones, Priyanthi Waidyasekara, , Cassandra Loiselle-Walker, Chrissy Werestiuk, Rosa Bovino

Regrets: Gillian Hauser, Colleen McFadden

1. Meeting called to order at 7:10pm

- Opening Prayer by Joanie Smalley.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to accept by Cassandra Loiselle-Walker and seconded by Rosa Bovino.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes – Tuesday December 04, 2018

Motion to accept by Anita Auriti and seconded by Cassandra Loiselle-Walker.

4. PG Executive Committee Reports

President – Ramona Thomson

- Torch Talks – sold out
- Christmas Party – Handbags of Hope. Eighteen purses were filled with items of need for women and delivered for this charity. Also, funds collected in the amount of \$350 will be given to Willow Place (a women & children's family violence services/shelter).
- Open House was well attended. Joanie Smalley and Gillian Hauser represented the Parents' Guild, providing information to guests.
- We will be looking for some parents to fill leadership roles.

2nd VP – Gillian Hauser

- No report. (Gillian away)

Treasurer – Anita Auriti

- Provided update on Financial Report.

5. SMA Presidents Report – Connie Yunyk

- Re-Registration and New Admissions:
 - Very successful Open House on January 15.
 - Principals have met with students and parents regarding academic program and electives.
 - Admissions deadline February 5, with testing and interviews to be completed by the end of February, selection takes place in March and April.

- Staffing:
 - New incentive to inform President by January 31 of any given year regarding intention to retire; 2 have confirmed retirement, 1 requesting a leave of absence for personal reasons, 1 maternity leave – very advantageous to know early and allows strategic planning.
 - New positions at SMA:
 - Human Resources Manager – Jodi Funk Clements (3 days/week).
 - Junior Graphic Designer – Vincent Ocampo (20 hours/week).
 - Replacement for retired cleaner, Erminia Canosa – Riley Blahut-Ridge – started working at SMA part-time 4 years ago.
- Budgets for both School and Foundation Boards are prepared, presented to both Finance Committees, ready for presentation at March Board meetings for ratification.
- Events:
 - Evening at the Academy (EAA) – all targets successfully met, January 2021 will be next EAA event.
 - February 15, SMA hosting Catholic Schools Day.
 - March 8 – hosting International Women’s Day at SMA with guest speaker Kimberly Prost (’76), member of International Crime Tribunal, tickets available through the Nellie McClung Foundation.
 - April 4 – Panel Interviews for grades 11 and 12, volunteers needed.
 - April 25 – Generations Day.
 - May 1 – 150th Birthday launch for students and staff.
 - May 11 – Marian Awards – honoring The Grey Nuns – founders of SMA in 1869.
 - May 24 – Table for 100 – second annual Father-Daughter event.
 - August 28 – 150th Birthday Picnic.
 - September 27 – 150th Birthday Gala Dinner (during Homecoming weekend).
 - December 8 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception and Steeped in Tradition High Tea.
- Student Life:
 - Mid-year assessments completed, reports cards distributed February 21, Parent/Teacher conferences on February 28 and March 1.
 - Athletics: Basketball, hockey and track and field in full swing.
 - SMA hosted the 7th annual Female World Sport School Challenge – many, many positive comments re growth of this event.
 - Two student trips this year; Canada and the World Wars over Spring Break and El Salvador in July 2019.
 - Well Being pillar – engaging students to design a first-ever Mental Well Being room at SMA, pillar co-chairs and consultant to meet with students who were all personally invited by Board Chair, Bob Cox.

- Other:
 - The City of Winnipeg has now confirmed that certain character-defining elements of St. Mary's Academy have received heritage designation status.
 - Parking lot/traffic flow - Stantec (consultant) will provide update on solutions within a defined budget.

6. Committee Updates - VP – Venus Denis

- Corner Store
 - Clothing sales are doing well. Food sales are slightly down. Will stop selling TCBY cards by spring break.
 - Not as many volunteers after Christmas break. Gillian will send out a reminder to parents to sign up for volunteering through SignUp.com.
 - Tammy Zach and Stephanie Beechinor will be stepping down from their roles as Corner Store Chair and Store Volunteer Coordinator after this school year.
- Tartan Shop
 - Shawn Morrison will be returning next school year as Chair.
- Hospitality
 - Next event - Staff appreciation brunch to take place on March 1st.
- International Day
 - Looking to bring in a third Co-Chair (for succession planning).
- Parents' Guild Cash Lottery
 - Mel Jones will be returning next school year as Chair. Looking to bring in a Co-Chair. Lottery Licence application in June 2019.
- New Parent Mix and Mingle
 - May need one Co-Chair.
- Torch Talks
 - Event takes place Saturday, February 9th with guest speaker Dr. Rayleen De Luca on the topic of Challenges Facing Adolescent Girls: Navigating the Rocky Road.

7. Board Liaison Report – Connie Yunyk for Colleen McFadden

- The Board is continuing with the work on the Five 5 pillars of the Strategic Plan (1. Identity, 2. Academics, Learning and Innovation, 3. Well-Being, 4. Governance and Leadership and 5. Stewardship).

8. Miscellaneous/New Business

- Recently St. Mary's Academy started a contract with PepsiCo, therefore, all beverages (soft drinks etc.) in the machines, cafeteria and special events must be PepsiCo product. Should anyone be offering pop or these types of beverages at this event or any future event, please place an order through Nadine Dannenberg, SMA Executive Assistant (ideally three weeks in advance).

9. Action Items for next meeting

- New Student Uniform fittings May 21st and 22nd: idea came forward of setting up booths for the Parents' Guild Committees for new parents to have more exposure to the different volunteer opportunities and time commitments.
- To be added for vote to the AGM in September: Add to the constitution "Approval of the Financials as presented" to follow the Treasurer's report.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm

Next Parents' Guild Meeting:
Tuesday, May 7, 2019
Time: 7:00pm
Location: Durocher Library