

St Mary's Academy AGM 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

- 1) Meeting called to order at 7:02 by Candace Partyka, Parent Guild President
- 2) Opening prayer by Connie Yunyk
- 3) Approval of previous AGM Minutes – September 14, 2015
Motion to accept AGM minutes by Kelly Moon and seconded by Mary Fustey
- 4) **President's Report** – Candace Partyka

The purpose of the St. Mary's Academy (SMA) Parents' Guild as stated in the Constitution is to foster a sense of community, help further the work of the school and to encourage and facilitate communication among the constituents of the school. Last year, the Guild under the direction of former President Kristi Cumming and a host of energetic volunteers worked together to further this mission in creative and fun ways. Two new parent events were launched: the After School Special (an event for grade 7 parents) and Torch Talks (a morning of conversation featuring speakers Dr. Mark Koltek, Dr. Mark Teschuk and Pamela White). These events both served to create community and allowed parents to form connections with one another and the school. Both the events were successful and the Guild plans to host them again this year.

The Parents' Guild raised nearly \$77,000 (revenue) during the 2015-2016 school year. These funds were used for a variety of annual commitments which included: purchasing student agendas, a \$3000.00 donation to the SMA Foundation Bursary and student education enrichment activities such as the SMA Ret-trally and buses for grade 7 camp. We also gifted each graduate an angel at convocation and for the first time this year we sponsored each graduating student's ticket to the Graduation Brunch at the Victoria Inn. The Parents' Guild also awarded two \$1200 scholarships at convocation:

SMA Parents' Guild School Citizenship Award:

Fiona Vowell

SMA Parents' Guild Scholarship:

Melissa Coleman

The Guild funded a variety of special projects including a smart podium and interactive pen, a charging station in the cafeteria, and a score clock in the gym. However our largest project this year was the design and renovation of the Corner Store. I would like to thank Mrs. Connie Yunyk for agreeing to share the cost of this project. The results are impressive and promising. Already this school year we have seen an increase in sales. Along with the new space the Corner Store is endeavoring to reach new markets focusing on alumnae as well as students.

This year's International Day featured 9 pavilions and over 1000 people attended the event. \$31,000 was raised. I would like to thank the International Day co-chairs, Claudia Davis and Ramona Thomson who meticulously planned, marketed and hosted the event along with over 200 volunteers.

The International Day Lottery had positive sales and raised \$27,000 due in large part to the tenacity of its co-chairs Mary Fustey and Eileen Eng who positioned themselves at tables in the hallway before school and at lunch time reminding students to both sell and return their booklets.

The Guild Hospitality Committee chaired by Cathryn Ekdahl organized and hosted a staff luncheon, the Annual Open House, an information and refreshment table at the New Student Uniform Sale and Convocation. They also hosted a Christmas party in conjunction with Mrs. May in the Foods and Nutrition classroom. Several small purchases of serving ware were made to add to the Guild Hospitality inventory.

Deneen Klippenstein and Cindy Hasselman continued to manage the Tartan Shop, scheduling volunteers and organizing sales. And, although it was at times challenging, Bingo Chair Gwen Laurence managed to staff all 19 Bingos with two volunteers. These Bingos provide the school with approximately \$17,000 in funds. It was decided that going forward we would manage and schedule both Bingo and International Day volunteers using Volunteer Spot.

The Guild supported the school's premier fundraising event "An Evening at the Academy" by sponsoring a portion of the wall of wine and we purchased and hosted a full table of Guild volunteers at the Marion Awards.

The Guild also purchased two planters for the entrance to Alumnae Hall and kept them filled with seasonal plants and flowers.

All of the above activities have been undertaken with the intent to build community, to support the administration and staff and to enrich the experience of our daughters at St. Mary's Academy. It is my hope that all has been done in such a way that the foundation of faith upon which this school was established has been honored and respected.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my thanks to all Guild volunteers whose spirit of service and generosity makes so many things possible and ensures that the charism of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary remains relevant and alive.

I would like to thank Mrs. Connie Yunyk for her support and enthusiasm and for leading by example. And lastly, I would like to thank Kristi Cumming for her leadership and commitment to creating meaningful connections and strengthening the SMA community.

5) **Treasurer's Report** – Pam Knysh

Pam Knysh presented the financials from the period ending June 2016.

6) **Constitution and By-Laws**

Minor amendments to wording, hi-lited and reviewed.

Motion to approve changes to Constitution and By-Laws by Candace Partyka, accepted by Christa Giebrecht seconded by Lidia Erickson

7) Report of Results of Election of Officers

Candace Partyka exercised right as President to appoint Debbie Styles as secretary and then proceeded to introduce new Guild Executive.

Parent Guild Executive for 2016/2017

President – Candace Partyka

Vice President – Kelly Moon

Second Vice President/ Volunteer Coordinator – Christa Giesbrecht

Treasurer - Pam Knysh

Secretary – Debbie Styles

St Mary's Academy President/Advisor to Parent Guild Executive –
Connie Yunyk

Meeting adjourned at 7:25