

**St. Alphonsus Home and School Association**  
**Minutes – September 20, 2005**

**Present:** Monsignor Owens, Sister Ruth, Linda Robins, Linda Lillo, Pat McNamara, Suzie Devlin, Kim Paris, Mimi McCloskey, Jeanne Calhoun, Kathy Farris, Angie McDonnell, Michele Gallagher, Lisa Vernacchio, Gina Giuliani

**Absent:** Jennifer Princivalle

**Opening Prayer:** Monsignor Owens

**Parish Report:** Monsignor Owens

Monsignor distributed school's Statement of Operating Income and Expenses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005. Attention was drawn to the fact that there is an annual operating loss which is absorbed by the parish's Sunday envelope collection. In the past, approximately 50% of expenses were funded by the Sunday collection. Last year, approximately 37% of expenses were funded by the Sunday collection. Next year, because tuition will be the same for all parishioners, the resulting percent increase in tuition will be the same for everyone and as a result, the percentage of expenses funded by the Sunday collection may decrease further.

Due to Hurricane Katrina and the resulting increase in fuel prices, Monsignor expressed concern about the parish's heating costs this coming winter.

The school has a new roof. The cost of that project was \$111,000 for the roof and \$18,000 for the exhaust fans. The new exhaust fans help the classrooms in close proximity to the fans, as long as the classroom doors are kept open.

The loan that was taken for the gymnasium addition will be paid off 2020.

The parish has a new, full-time business manager, Nick D'Amico. Mr. D'Amico's background is in mortgage and finance.

**School Report:** Sister Ruth

The school has committed to do 3 service projects during the year. The first will be the assembly of breakfast bags on Mercy Day. Someone from Aid for Friends will be in to talk with the children.

Mrs. O'Connell's brother and his family were victims of Hurricane Katrina. Money collected from Denim Day on Monday, September 26, will be sent to his family.

Sister Ruth is working on the memorial mass for Carol Garcia.

17 faculty members will be participating in technology training. Teachers will receive 1 comp day for participating.

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, teachers will be attending an in-service.

Mrs. Mullin is doing better.

Mercy Day lollipops for the students will be funded by the Home and School.

Instead of subsidized Aramark lunches, the faculty would prefer having beverages (water & soda) provided in the faculty lounge. Linda Robins will poll the teachers to determine if they would like to handle stocking the refrigerator on their own, or if they would like the home and school volunteers to handle it.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lisa Vernacchio

Lisa distributed the Home and School Budget for 2005 – 2006 and the Statement of Income and Expenses for July through September 2005

Next year the budget will be broken down according to Home and School's new structure.

According to Monsignor, there needs to be awareness that any opening balance in the Home and School budget can be used if the parish does not meet its debt requirements.

Lisa will speak with Nick D'Amico for suggestions of how to handle this going forward.

**Secretary's Report:** Kim Paris

The list of current Home and School members has been added to the website. E-mail addresses and phone numbers will be added as well.

After the minutes are distributed, members have 1 week to respond with changes. After 1 week, the minutes will be posted to the web site.

**Committee Reports**

**A.) Assemblies:** Gina Giuliani

The 1<sup>st</sup> function of the year will be Mercy Day. There will be a luncheon for the faculty and staff. Golf shirts will be given as a gift to the faculty and staff. The shirts will be worn on dress-down Fridays.

The committee will meet to discuss activities for the year.

Catholic Schools week falls under all Home and School areas.

**B.) Community Affairs:** Jeanne Calhoun

No report to date.

Jeanne will look into ways to help victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Jeanne will look into bussing rules/laws in order to address issues that some families have with transportation in their school districts.

**C.) Publicity:** Kathy Farris

Photos were published in the Ambler Gazette.

If anyone takes pictures or has contacts at the various newspapers, please pass this information along to Kathy.

Kathy will try to get photographs during Mercy Day.

There will be a group of approximately 8 students (4 7<sup>th</sup> graders and 4 8<sup>th</sup> graders) on the press corps this year.

No last names may be used in local papers or on the web site.

This committee will be responsible for the bulletin board outside of the cafeteria. They will be placing pictures of new students and faculty there.

**D.) Social Activities:** Michele Gallagher

There are 14 people on the committee.

Approximately 2-3 people will plan each event and then will contact Angie to get volunteers to work the event.

Brainstorming at the Home and School general meeting in May indicated interest in keeping the Father/Daughter Dance and the Mother/Son Olympics. New ideas were generated also, including: Movie Night, Family Trivia, Family Volleyball and group outings.

The first event is scheduled for Friday, September 30. This will be bowling at Thunderbird Lanes.

A school show is scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup>.

**E.) Volunteers:** Angie McDonnell.

There are approximately 80 general volunteers.

Angie is planning to create a spreadsheet which will show individual availability as well as the last time a volunteer was called upon.

**F.) Technology:** Mimi McCloskey

No report to date

There was a lightning strike a few weeks ago which damaged 4 computers and few phones.

**Auction Update:** Jeanne Calhoun and Mimi McCloskey

Invitations are going out next week; faculty and staff will be invited to come free of charge.

There will not be a raffle this year. Instead, the 50/50 will be brought back.

The Back to School Bash is scheduled for this Friday night.

There are pre-made baskets to purchase.

\$28,000 has been donated to date.

There will not be class baskets this year. Instead, students in each class will participate in a class craft project. \$5 will still be collected but will go directly to Gina Gulianni and will be used to pay for materials used in the class projects. Class projects will be implemented this Friday, September 23.

On the night of the auction, Lisa will head the bank and data entry. Hillary Seabrook Blust will head the table closings. Mrs. DiNenno will coordinate teachers to help. The youth group will again help with distribution. Mike Barrett will provide t-shirts for all youth group members who volunteer.

**Old Business**

**A.) Office Coverage for After School Activities**

For the art program, Katie Kulp will have someone with her.

For the chess club, Mark Pavinetti needs volunteers.

For theater, Sister Ruth will clarify with them that they need an adult to cover the office.

**B.) Rep At-Large**

Of the 5 newly filled at-large positions, 1 is a 1-year position and 4 are 2-year positions. In February we will survey the at-large members. If a member is ready to leave their position, that position will be vacated and a new member will be elected. If no-one is ready to leave their position, the position to be vacated will be picked at random.

**New Business**

Pat is compiling the Home and School survey results. There were 47 responses.

Linda and Pat asked the committee chairs to keep files detailing all events, activities etc. they work on during the year.

Anything that needs to be put into the family envelope should be sent to Kim who will in turn forward it to Sr. Ruth. Items need to be received by Sister Ruth by Monday PM for Wednesday's envelope.

A general Home and School meeting will be held Thursday, October 6, 2005. Sister Ruth is working on the agenda for the evening. At the meeting, there will be an overview of the school's crisis plan for everyone and then there will be breakout sessions touching on different areas of the curriculum.

A shed which was purchased with money received from a generous benefactor was added to the recess yard. This money will also purchase equipment that will be kept inside the shed. A group of individuals are meeting to discuss additional ideas to improve the outdoor recess facilities. Several proposals have been received and are being evaluated including: regenerating the basketball courts, expanding the playground, and improving use of the baseball/soccer fields. A suggestion was made to put a fence between the playground and the woods behind the school.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on October 24, 2005 from 7:30 – 9:00.

Respectfully Submitted by: Kim Paris