

St. Alphonsus Home and School Association Minutes – June 20, 2006

Present: Monsignor Owens, Sister Ruth, Suzie Devlin, Angie McDonnell, Kim Paris, Lisa Vernacchio, Dianne Signoretta, Deb DeAngelis, Mary Dolaway, Michele Gallagher, Gina Giuliani, Ann Markley, Carolyn Schumann, Joe Wall, Fr. Papa

Absent: Mark Wolpert

Opening Prayer: Monsignor Owens

Parish Report: Monsignor Owens

- Monsignor urged anyone with concerns about the parish or the school to contact him.
- In spite of opening next year's 1st grade to 27 students per class, there is still a waiting list.
- There was a 15.7% increase in the Sunday collections in the 4 weeks following Monsignor's talk about the parish's financial situation.
- In 2007, the parish will begin to address the issue of the \$3.4 million debt.

School Report: Sister Ruth

- Sister Ruth thanked the Home and School for the end of year gift to the faculty and staff.
- The school is updating the science series for grades K – 6.
- The themes for this year are: Catholic Schools: The Good News in Education & puzzle pieces.
- Sister Ruth distributed a sample letter to State Senators and Representatives regarding the Educational Improvement Tax Credit and asked that the Home and School members disseminate the letter to school parents so the parents can write to their State Senator and Representative and ask them to support increased funding for the program.
- Sister Ruth asked about the possibility of purchasing flat screen monitors for the 2nd floor computer lab. Flat screens would take up less space, use less electricity (99 amps vs. 122 amps of current monitors), and generate less heat. The proposed cost is \$4,600.
- Sister Ruth questioned if the United Streaming subscription was renewed. Lisa sent a check for the subscription renewal. Sister Ruth will follow-up with United Streaming. Joe Wall will follow-up with his contact there as well.
- Sister Ruth polled the faculty regarding ideas for the Auction Focus next year. Ideas include:
 - New furniture for older classrooms
 - A fund to keep technology updated
 - A gift to help with the parish debt
 - More materials for special area teachers?
 - Wireless notebooks (class set)
 - Classroom environment (paint bright colors)
 - Interactive technology
 - Help the parish
 - Academic enrichment programs
 - Continue United Streaming subscription
 - Better microphones in the gym, speakers, monitors
 - Interactive software programs (timeliner etc.)
 - Interactive technology (whiteboards in each classroom ...)
 - Laptops for every teacher
 - Faculty/staff appreciation

- Plans are to have the uniform swap at back to school night. Lisa will follow-up with Pauline D'Andrea to see if it could take places earlier, possibly after mass one Sunday. It could be publicized in the parish bulletin.

Treasurer's Report: Lisa Vernacchio

- Lisa distributed and reviewed the Home and School Budget for 2006-2007.
- The Auction is projected to make \$70,000 this year.
- A \$10,000 capital expenditure was added this year and will be an on-going line item in the budget in anticipation of computer lab upgrades.
- The 8th grade graduation subsidy was added this year but may be eliminated in the future if necessary.
- There was increase in start-up classroom expenses from \$300 to \$500 per room this year. This may be adjusted in the future if necessary.

Motion

A Formal Motion was made to approve the 2006 – 2007 budget.

Vote

A vote was taken by the committee and the motion was unanimously **approved**.

Committee Chair Selections

- An amendment to the Home and School By-Laws is in process. At the next General Home and School Meeting, there will be a vote to replace the Technology Chairperson with a Ways and Means Chairperson.
- The Committee Chairs for the 2006-2007 school year are:
 - Community Affairs - Joe Wall
 - Programs - Carolyn Schumann and Mark Wolpert
 - Publicity - Ann Markley
 - Social Activities - Deb DeAngelis and Mary Dolaway
 - Volunteers - Michele Gallagher
 - Ways and Means - Gina Giuliani

Yard Duty Calendaring and Policy

- Ann Markley will create the yard duty calendar for the year; it will be distributed at Back to School Night.
- Failure to report for yard duty continues to be a problem. Some ideas to improve turnout include: announcing, in school, those families responsible for yard duty the following day and providing everyone with a list of emergency substitutes who can be paid to cover yard duty.

Mentoring

- Joe Wall will match mentor volunteers with new families and will distribute to the mentors information about the new families so mentors can initiate contact over the summer.

Social Activities Schedule

- Deb DeAngelis, Mary Doloway and Michele Gallagher will meet to begin to set the calendar for social events for the year. Events requiring use of the parish center will need to be scheduled ASAP.

Ways and Means Update: Gina Giuliani

- Gina Giuliani, Elena Wall and Heather Dianno have begun planning the 2006 – 2007 auction; this year's theme is "Under the Sea". They will be using some new and innovative ideas.
- The Back to School Bash is scheduled for September 29th, tuition will be raffled off.
- Class craft projects are underway and are being organized by Lisa Stefkovic.
- A solicitation letter will be sent out shortly. Before it is sent, the auction chairs would like a focus project chosen. Gina will follow-up with Sister Ruth.

Home and School General Meeting Dates for 2006 – 2007

- September 5th, 7 PM – Back to School Night (K - 3)
- September 6th, 7 PM – Back to School Night (4 – 8)
- October 23rd, 7 PM – Curriculum Night
- January (date and time TBA) – Bulling through the I.U.
- March (date and time TBA) – Internet Safety (Suzie will follow-up)

Home and School Board Meeting Dates for 2006 – 2007

- September 19th, 7 PM
- October 16th, 7 PM (note: this is a Monday)
- November 21st, 8:10 AM
- December 12th, 7 PM
- January 16th, 8:10AM
- February 20th, 7 PM
- March 20th, 7 PM
- April 17th, 7 PM
- May 15th, 7 PM

Old Business

- The fence, which was discussed at the May meeting, will be installed by the end of June and will be included in the 2005 – 2006 budget.
- Project Fun is looking into a few final options, Sister Ruth will follow-up with Suzie.

New Business

- New, flat-screen, computer monitors have been requested. This consideration will be considered in the 2006 - 2006 budgets.
- Sister Ruth will look at the student council's wish list for items the Home and School could help with. This will be addressed at September's meeting.
- Home and School members will be contacted via e-mail regarding Back to School Night.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be held on September 19th, 2006 from 7:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted by: Kim Paris