

St. Alphonsus Home and School Association

Minutes – April 24, 2006

Present: Sister Ruth, Linda Robins, Linda Lillo, Pat McNamara, Suzie Devlin, Kim Paris, Jeanne Calhoun, Angie McDonnell, Michele Gallagher, Gina Giuliani,

Absent: Monsignor Owens, Mimi McCloskey, Kathy Farris, Lisa Vernacchio, Jen Princivalle

Opening Prayer: Sister Ruth

School Report: Sister Ruth

- Pauline D’Andrea will be organizing a uniform swap. More details to come.
- New Science books are being evaluated for grades 3 – 6. The diocese is coming out with new guidelines.
- A new Social Studies series for 7th and 8th grade is being purchased for next year.
- Mrs. Wenhold will be retiring at the end of the year. A mass in her honor is planned for May 31st.
- Sister Ruth has received a lot of feedback about the school show: a great community builder, a great message and a lot of fun; however, it took a good deal of time away from class. Sister will be asking the faculty for their feedback and suggestions for future shows.
- Currently, enrollment is too low to guarantee a pre-k class next year.
- Pat Olshen is leaving to begin classes at the University of Texas.
- The Student Council is anxious to begin a project. They have brainstormed and come up with many ideas. Their focus is: 1.) School Involvement, 2.) Mercy Foundations of Character and 3.) Community Service. Linda will circulate a list of their top ideas to the Home and School members in order to solicit feedback on which project should be undertaken.

Committee Reports

A.) Assemblies/Programs: Gina Giuliani

- Gina presented a list of options for school programs for next year along with their associated fees. Sister Ruth will present them to the faculty and will poll the faculty as to their preferences for the number and timing of programs during the year.

B.) Community Affairs: Jeanne Calhoun

- Upper Dublin School District is currently evaluating facility improvements. Jeanne will develop a summary of this information for the St. Alphonsus school community as UDSD facility improvements will impact Upper Dublin taxpayers.
- There was discussion about the fact that some teachers better utilize the school’s website than others. Sister Ruth will follow up with the teachers and ask them to update their websites. One thought was that each class’s student council representative could update the website with homework each day.
- Jeanne will follow up on the township’s requirements for providing a nurse to the school.

C.) Publicity: Pat McNamara

- Amanda Dougherty had an article published in the Enterprise.
- An article by Chris Smith is due to be published shortly.

D.) Social Activities: Michele Gallagher

- Many Home and School sponsored activities held previously during the year were attended predominately by students in the lower grades. Jen met with members of the upper grades in order to plan an activity that would appeal to them. In response to this discussion, a Kids Trivia Night is planned for the evening of May 24th for students in grades 6 – 8. The Home and School will provide \$200 towards the event. Michele will follow up on the availability of the cafeteria on that night. Michele will also follow up with Jen to flush out the details. Home and School members agreed to a small charge (\$2) per child to attend and that the 7th grade may sell concessions in order to begin raising money to defray 8th grade end-of-year costs.

Motion

A Formal Motion was made to approve providing \$200 towards Trivia Night for grades 6 – 8.

Vote

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

E.) Volunteers: Angie McDonnell.

- Angie is working on a list the volunteers she was able to use and those who volunteered but did not have an opportunity to help.
- Volunteers may be needed for the MDA race.

Old Business

A.) General Meeting

- A General Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 1st. Sr. Marie Michele will speak about Gospel Values and the Family. In addition, an amendment to the Home and School By-Laws will be introduced so that a Ways and Means Chairperson will replace the Technology Chairperson.

B.) Project Fun Expenditure

- There was a good deal of discussion regarding the Project Fun expenditure on the All Sport Court. Notes from the Executive Committee Meeting which was held on April 4th were reviewed. At the January Home and School meeting, it was reported that the Sport Court would cost \$39,000, which was over the original, approved budget and the January Treasurer's report, stated that 1/3 of this amount had already been paid. At this point, the contract is signed and the project is underway.
- Going forward:
 - Any expenditure or increase in actual to budgeted amounts needs to be approved by the Board.
 - Any special committee should report back to the Home and School Board regularly.
 - Any special committee needs board approval before approving and spending of Home & School funds.
 - **A decision about the Focus project's use of auction proceeds in excess of fixed expenses needs to be finalized.**

Motion

A Formal Motion was made to approve to recognize the \$39,000 expenditure on the Sport Court.

Vote

A vote was taken by the committee and the motion was unanimously recognized.

C.) Vacating Members

- Kathy Farris, Jen Princivalle, Jeanne Calhoun and Mimi Mc Closkey will be leaving their positions on the board at the end of this year. As a result, the board has a need for 4 members at large, a president elect and a treasurer elect.

New Business

A.) Nominations

- A list of individuals nominated for the Home and School Board was distributed. Current members will be contacting those individuals by the end of the week in order to determine if they are interested in running for the open positions.

B.) Patrick Olshen and Ray Wilson Departing

Motion

A Formal Motion was made to approve purchasing two departing gifts, one for Patrick and one for Ray.

Vote

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

C.) Fund Raising Survey

- Results of the Fund Raising Survey were discussed. Most individuals who responded indicated they would like the auction to continue. There was also interest in a Monte Carlo Night. Linda will summarize the results and will send them to the school community by the end of June.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be held on May 16, 2006 from 7:30 – 9:00.

Respectfully Submitted by: Kim Paris