

St. Alphonsus Home and School Association

Minutes – March 21, 2006

Present: Monsignor Owens, Sister Ruth, Linda Robins, Linda Lillo, Pat McNamara, Suzie Devlin, Kim Paris, Mimi McCloskey, Jeanne Calhoun, Angie McDonnell, Michele Gallagher, Jennifer Princivalle

Absent: Kathy Farris, Lisa Vernacchio, Gina Giuliani

Opening Prayer: Monsignor Owens

Parish Report: Monsignor Owens

- Confirmation will be held March 22nd.
- Monsignor Owens and Nick D'Amico are in the process of developing the parish budget for next year. Preliminary estimates project a significant deficit. A fifteen year mortgage was taken to pay for the balance of recent renovations to the church and school and the building of the parish center. This was the first year of paying off the loan; it is currently scheduled to be repaid by 2020. Monsignor stated that the financial situation is okay this year because this is the last year of the capital campaign and the balances of any pledges due are being received. Going forward however, the financial situation is not clear. The mortgage payments are only one factor. In addition, original projections showed a 4% increase in the Sunday collection when actually there has been a decrease. With the mortgage repayment and the decrease in the Sunday collection in mind, operating costs and other alternatives will be looked at to allow a balanced budget.

School Report: Sister Ruth

- In January, Bishop Burbidge visited the school.
- The MS Read-a-thon was a success, about 1600 books were read and \$5,000 was raised.
- A student teacher from Gwynedd, Deb Spieca, is helping in the 5th and 6th grades.
- There are 3 TAP students from Gwynedd here on Wednesdays; they are helping in the 4th grade and kindergarten.
- Students will be attending confessions and stations during lent and will have a retreat day on April 12th before the Easter holiday.
- A Spelling Bee was held for grades 4, 5, and 6. Thomas Mazza will represent the school.
- Confirmation is scheduled for tomorrow, March 22nd.
- Linda will get Tae Kwon Do information to Sister Ruth.
- The Build a Playground contest winners are: Mike Bennett, Megan McCloskey and Emma Price, Chris Bennett, Sean Bennett and Ben Fabiszewski and Nicky Cooper.

Treasurer's Report: Lisa Vernacchio.

- The Cash Account Register for March was distributed.
- The Auction Income/Expense Statement was distributed.

Committee Reports

A.) Social Activities: Michele Gallagher, Jen Princivalle

- A request for volunteers to organize a Fall event will be advertised in the family envelope.
- Michele and Jen will look at the calendar to schedule a 7th and 8th grade volleyball event.

Old Business

A.) Tae Kwon Do

- Linda will get Tae Kwon Do information to Sister Ruth.

B.) Speaker for March 29th General Meeting

- Linda and Pat are working on lining up a speaker for the March 29th General Meeting.
- Nutrition was suggested as a topic for a coming meeting.
- The last General Meeting is scheduled for May 1st. Last year, the final meeting was a brainstorming session for the coming year. This worked well and may be done again.

C.) Ice Cream Social/Book Fair

- The Ice Cream Social/Book Fair was a success.

D.) Motion to Amend By-Laws to include a Ways and Means Chairperson

- Last month, Pat suggested an amendment to the Home and School By-Laws be considered in which a Ways and Means Chairperson is reinstated in place of the Technology Chairperson. The Auction, Script, Market Day and any other fund raisers would fall under this area. In order to amend the By-Laws, the amendment will be presented at the next General Meeting and voted upon at the following General Meeting. A two-thirds vote is necessary to amend.

Motion

A Formal Motion was made to present an amendment to the Home and School By-Laws at the next General Home and School Meeting as follows:

Proposed By-Law Amendment to: Article V, Section 5A, At Large Members, #6

Replace #6 – Technology Chairperson with #6 – Ways and Means Chairperson

The duties of the Ways and Means Chairperson will be defined as “Identify and oversee fundraising activities needed to finance the Home and School Association’s annual budget.”

Vote

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

E.) Vacating Member at large

- Pat and Linda requested that any member wishing to vacate their position at the end of this year put their request in writing to Pat or Linda by March 31st.

New Business

A.) Budget Update

- The parish social committee and CYO purchased a beer cooler to be used for functions in the parish center instead of ice. The Home and School was asked if they would split the cost.

Motion

A Formal Motion was made to approve an expenditure of approximately \$200 to share the cost of a beer cooler with the parish social committee and the CYO.

Vote

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

- Linda and Suzie continue to flush out the budget for next year and will be forming a budget committee shortly.

B.) Internet Safety for Parents

- Gina has a contact that could provide an internet safety course for parents during the day. Linda and Gina will get more information including cost, time, etc.

C.) Gym Requests for Next Year

- Requests for using the gym next year are being made now.

D.) Auction Update

- Linda and Pat have received no inquiries to date regarding their request for input about next year's auction.
- A meeting will be planned for past chairs and others for brainstorming.

E.) Project Fun Update

- Any spending or changes in amounts should be approved by the Home and School.
- Although members agreed auction proceeds must first be used to cover the Home and School operating budget, there was discussion as to what percentage of the remaining money should be spent on the target project each year and how much should be set aside to cover unexpected expenses in the coming year. No resolution was reached; Linda and Mimi will discuss this further.

F.) Nomination Process Reviewed

- Nominations to Home and School will begin shortly.

G.) Other

Ray and Ellen Lee approached a member of the Home and School association to see if there was a need to initiate some kind of scholarship fund for families needing help paying St. Alphonsus tuition. Monsignor mentioned the Father Kelly fund has some money available if a family is in a short-term crisis situation with finances.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be held on April 25, 2006 from 7:30 – 9:00.

Respectfully Submitted by: Kim Paris