

St. Alphonsus Home & School

Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2009 8:15 am, Adult Faith Formation room

In Attendance: Monsignor Owens, John Steck, Jane Gironde, Deb DeAngelis, Emily Klammer, Kathy Tavolaro, Judy Morrissey, Kathie Reilly, Colleen Araco, Beth Perri, Tricia Loftus, Judy Felix, Maura Zimmerman, Sherry Mischler, Liz Fitzpatrick, Carla Cooper

Parish Report: Monsignor Owens

- Monsignor Owens welcomed everyone with a prayer.
- Monsignor Owens, Nick D'Amico, and Mr. Steck have met to start the budget process. They will have the tuition rate by Catholic Schools Week.

School Report: John Steck

- Mr. Steck thanked all the parent and teacher volunteers for the hours, effort, and energy that went into the school auction.
- Thursday, November 19 is the High School Visitation Day for the 8th grade students.
- Conferences are scheduled for November 23 and 24. The conferences were pushed later this year on a trial basis. The teachers of the younger students like the later conferences because they have more information to share with the parents; however, the teachers of the upper grade students feel conferences might be better earlier in the trimester.
- Preparations for Candlelight are underway. The Hand Bell Choir will make its debut.
- On December 7, St. Alphonsus will host a Faculty Professional Day for teachers in District 12.
- December 4th marks the end of the first trimester. Report cards will be distributed on December 11.
- We are waiting to hear from Upper Dublin regarding the H1N1 vaccines. The vaccines will probably be administered on a Friday night and Saturday when available.

Treasurer's Report: Judy Morrissey

- Early reports on the proceeds from the Auction were very favorable. 380 people attended the event which is 40 more than last year.
- The tax forms still need to go out. We are still selling frames and 8th grade DVDs.

Auction Re-Cap: Liz Fitzpatrick and Carla Cooper

- Congratulations to the Auction team!

- We received many positive comments about the night of the event. The mission of the Auction team was to generate community, showcase the students, and celebrate our school and our teachers. The goal is 100% participation of Saint Alphonsus families.
- The co-chairs asked Mrs. Girondo to thank the teachers for all their help. They were very helpful and organized and contributed to the success of the night.
- Thanks to all of the professional and committed parent volunteers in solicitation, marketing, choreography, videography, data management, invitations, and gift coordination, packaging, display and distribution.
- Carla is going to create an on-line survey (survey monkey or zoomerang) to gather information about the Casino Night and Auction and to find out how people felt about the event and to discover how to tap into the rest of the school community. She is also putting together a book of lessons learned.
- We also want to remind parents that the proceeds from the Auction are not just for parties. The proceeds fund approximately \$70,000 in fixed expenses such as the school nurse, after-school programs, assemblies, the school library, and replenishing science lab materials. In addition, we sponsor major enhancements to the instructional environment at St. Alphonsus: state-of-the-art science lab, school security system, networked computer lab, classroom phone and voicemail system, and playground equipment.
- There was some confusion about the student artwork. All parents will get their child's artwork whether or not they purchased a frame at the Auction. A blast e-mail will be sent to the parents.

Old Business:

- We will put a plan in place to revamp the school website next year. We will need volunteers to help with the weekly maintenance of the website.
- Mr. Steck will post school information in the Parish Bulletin.

Committee Chair Reports:

Social: Colleen Araco

- The Fall Family Fun Day was a success! 230 children and their families attended the event. Bad weather prompted the event to be moved indoors to the gym. Having everyone together in the gym worked well and boosted community spirit. The pumpkin contest was a hit!
- Secret Santa is scheduled for December 1 – 3. Information and envelopes went home in the family envelope. All teachers have signed up for time slots. Colleen will place a re-order after the first day. The Kindergarten classes will be scheduled for Thursday morning because the rest of the school will be attending the McDevitt school play. Sweatshirt blankets and peace magnets from the auction will be for sale.
- Mr. Steck will be meeting with teachers later today to discuss Catholic Schools Week events. He will then talk to Colleen about plans for the Talent Show (scheduled for Tuesday morning, Feb 2 at 10am).

Programs: Judy Felix & Maura Zimmerman

- A Science assembly, “The Bugs of Blackwood,” is scheduled for Friday, November 20.
- The Red Grammer “Teaching Peace” assembly is scheduled for Tuesday, March 23.
- We still need to plan an assembly for Friday of Catholic Schools Week. Maura will look into the Peking Acrobats.

Volunteers: Beth Perri

- Beth is working on scheduling volunteers for Secret Santa.

Community Affairs:

- Deb reported that the Mileage Club has gotten off on the right foot. The plug on Gator Cast has given a boost to the club.
- Kellie will be organizing Bingo Night during Catholic Schools Week.

Publicity: Kathie Reilly

- This year, we will again have assigned photographers for Candlelight. Photographs will be posted on flickr or web picasa, and an e-mail blast will be sent to parents.
- We are also looking to put together a folder of St. Alphonsus School information for prospective parents. Kathie will research different options.

Ways and Means: Tricia Loftus

- Tricia met with the vendor to discuss options for items in our school store. Mr. Steck will look into using one of the closets in the cafeteria to use as a home for the school store. We hope to have a “kick-off” during Bingo Night of Catholic Schools Week. Initial items to be included are t-shirts, sweatshirts (embroidered and silk screened), and pajama pants. We will also sell leftover beach towels, license plate holders, and blankets. We still need to decide on school crest options and colors. We also discussed seed money for the initial purchase. A link to the school store will be added to the school’s website.

New Business:

- Mr. Steck will follow up with Deb regarding an after school Science Explorers Club and new computers for the Auction office.
- We will discuss recruiting new board members and mentoring at our next meeting.

Next meeting, **Wednesday, December 16, 8:15 am in the Adult Faith Formation room.**

Meeting Adjourned: 10:00 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathy Tavolaro.