

**St. Alphonsus Home & School**  
**Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2010 8:15 am, Adult Faith Formation room**

**In Attendance:** John Steck, Jane Gironde, Deb DeAngelis, Kathy Tavolaro, Judy Morrissey, Kathie Reilly, Colleen Araco, Terry Zajac, Beth Perri, Tricia Loftus, Judy Felix, Maura Zimmerman, Kellie Brogan, Sherry Mischler, Liz Fitzpatrick

**Opening Prayer:** John Steck

**School Report:** John Steck

- St. Alphonsus School was awarded the Connelly Foundation Grant. In the second round of winners, St. Alphonsus School was the only school in Montgomery County to be awarded this grant. This grant is worth \$20,000-\$25,000. This grant is for a wireless laptop cart which contains:
  - 16 Netbook Computers with Microsoft Office applications
  - 1 Access Point
  - Jet Printer
- Thanks to Mrs. Tenzinger and Mrs. Greenbaum for their work on the grant!
- We hope to purchase another laptop cart with 16 Netbook Computers. We are planning to move toward a wireless network in the future.
- With Catholic Schools closing in the area and the trend toward regionalization of Catholic Schools, Mr. Steck would like to focus on Marketing and Development for St. Alphonsus. In the immediate future, we may redefine the Community Affairs position on the Home and School board to spend a few hours each week getting the word out to the larger community. In the future, this may be a part-time paid position. Some ideas discussed were updating our school's website, having our students send letters to babies baptized at St. Alphonsus, and an alumni page on Facebook.
- Wellness Wednesday has been put on hold for this spring. We need a volunteer to work with Mr. Delaney to put it together for next fall.

**Treasurer's Report:** Judy Morrissey

- Judy distributed an updated P&L report.

**Old Business:** Deb DeAngelis

- Ice Cream Social – We had some complaints about the Ice cream Social this year regarding the behavior of students. Some suggestions are to include a note in the flyer that states that parents must accompany children in the cafeteria and having seventh and eighth grade students from SASO supervising the stage area of the cafeteria. We also need to cover the Aramark computers to prevent student access.

- We are working on a new plan for lunchroom and recess duty volunteers for next year—two staggered shifts with 4 parents assigned to each shift. The first shift would follow the K-3 students from lunchroom to recess; the second shift would follow the 4-6 students from recess to lunchroom.

### **Committee Chair Reports:**

#### **Social:** Colleen Araco

- The Father Daughter night was a success! About 135 girls and 80 dads were in attendance. The power went out, but Joe and Nick came to the rescue with a generator. The flowers and photographs were very well-received.
- Emily is planning the Mother-Son event on Saturday, May 1 at 5:35pm—a Camden Riversharks baseball game. A flyer went home in the family envelope. We have bus transportation and 150 tickets reserved. 50 moms and sons have already signed up for the game.
- Deb and Angie are planning the Teen Event—a teen trivia/bowling afternoon at Thunderbird lanes. They are going to schedule it on a day off from school—Friday, May 14 from 1 until 3 in the afternoon.

#### **Publicity:** Kathie Reilly

- Kathie added Father Daughter dance pictures to the Shutterfly website. A link to the website was included in the family envelope.
- For marketing purposes, Kathie suggested the Media Club create a St. Alphonsus infomercial that could be presented at Back to School Night and be posted on our website.
- We had a few changes to the marketing folder for the next printing.
- We can include ads for Open Houses in the Ambler Gazette for \$18 to meet our goal of reaching a larger audience.
- Mrs. Girondo is working on an Animoto for Confirmation. She requested some still photographs of Bishop Maginnis. Kathie will ask Deanna Michie.
- First Communion is scheduled for April 24. Someone will be present to take photographs for our school photo website.

#### **Community Affairs:** Kellie Brogan

- Family Bingo was a fun night! We hosted about 190 bingo players. Joe Carmean was very helpful in the set up and clean up of the event. Terry has notes for some adjustments for next year.

#### **Programs:** Judy Felix & Maura Zimmerman

- The Walnut Street Theatre will present a free assembly on April 15 that ties into our Peace Program.
- Maura is looking into scheduling a Hip Hop assembly for May.

**Ways and Means:** Tricia Loftus

- School Store Update—we have sold two thirds of our items in stock. A few sizes have sold out. We talked about selling Gator Gear at the New Family Social. We may introduce some summer items (shorts and short sleeve tees) as samples for order.

**New Business**

- Home and School
  - We need 5 new people for next year's board, including a Treasurer Elect and a President Elect.
  - We will open up next month's meeting to gather interest for Home and School.
  - We need to make the Home and School Board more visible, targeting parents of students in grades Kindergarten – 3.
- Auction 2010, Port of Call: Saint Alphonsus
  - There will be a General Information Meeting next Thursday, March 25 at 8:15am. We still need auction chairs and committee chairs.
  - If we do not have enough interest to hold an auction, we may need to charge a technology fee, not only for new technology but to maintain and support our existing technology.

Next meeting, **Wednesday, April 21, 8:15 am in the Adult Faith Formation room.**

**Future meetings: May 19 and Monday, June 7.**

**Meeting Adjourned:** 9:50 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathy Tavolaro.