

St. Alphonsus Home & School

Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2011, 8:15 am, Faith Formation Room

In Attendance: Monsignor Thomas Owens, John Steck, Jane Girondo, Emily Klammer, Judy Morrissey, Kathy Tavolaro, Meg Pensabene, Kathie Reilly, Colleen Araco, Tricia Loftus, Maura Jennings, Steve Shegogue, Bridget Barton

Opening Prayer: Monsignor Owens

- Monsignor Owens opened the meeting with a prayer.

Parish Report: Monsignor Owens

- Due to the weather, our school had a two hour delay on Open House day. We will hold an additional Open House on Wednesday, February 23. There will be a flyer in the church bulletin, and it will be included in the announcements from the altar during each Mass.
- Cardinal Rigali has established the Blue Ribbon Commission on Catholic Education. The Commission will undertake a comprehensive study of Archdiocesan elementary and secondary schools and assess the strengths and challenges of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in the 21st Century.
- In August, the commission will produce a model for parishes and schools to use for self-evaluation. Monsignor is putting together an implementation committee for St. Alphonsus. For more information on the Blue Ribbon Commission, please visit the website: <http://www.catholicschools-phl.org/blue-ribbon-commission/home>.

School Report: Mr. Steck

- Mr. Steck asked for a few parent volunteers for next week's Open House. Judy Morrissey, Kathy Tavolaro, and Tricia Loftus volunteered.
- So far, there are 34 students registered for Kindergarten next Fall. The first 26 students are guaranteed a spot in the Kindergarten. We hope to boost the Kindergarten registrants to 39 or 40 to ensure two first grade homerooms the following year.
- Terra Nova Testing for grades K - 7 begins next Friday, February 28 and continues through the following week.
- The first meeting of the Middle States Steering Committee and Planning Committee has taken place. The team will meet five or six times, and the process will wrap up in the Spring of 2012. In a few weeks, surveys will be ready for students, teachers, parents, and parishioners. The committee will review the survey results to evaluate the school's strengths and weaknesses. They will then formulate a 7 year Strategic Plan.
- Optional Parent Teacher Conferences can be scheduled this Thursday and Friday.
- SASO is planning to purchase a Gator School Mascot costume to promote school spirit. SASO is sponsoring several dress down days to raise money for the costume. CYO will

also donate to the cause.

- We will be celebrating two sacraments in the near future: First Penance on February 28 and Confirmation at the end of March.
- Mr. Steck distributed copies of a Summer Enrichment program that will be made available for parents to purchase.
- Technology Night will be scheduled in March.
- The eighth grade graduation gift this year is a TV which will be hung in the school foyer and will broadcast Gatorcast, clips of Candlelight, the Talent show, sporting events, and a slide show of photographs of St. Alphonsus students. We hope to have the TV up and running by next week's Open House.

Treasurer's Report: Judy Morrissey

- Judy distributed an updated P&L statement and reviewed the expenses from Catholic Schools Week.
- She received a check from TerraCycle for \$71.

Committee Chair Reports:

Social: Colleen Araco/Katie Greene

- Only five people have registered for the Father Daughter Dance so far, and we have no parent volunteers! The DJ is doing a free light show, and Kathie Reilly is bringing a Hawaiian themed backdrop for the Father Daughter photographs.
- We discussed sending an evite or google docs form to make it easier to RSVP and volunteer for the event.

Programs: Steve Shegogue and Maura Jennings

- Our next school assembly is "Balance of Power"--a multi-media experience that "exposes this simple, yet seemingly unfair, fact: life isn't fair. Life has dealt everyone a different set of cards. It's what we do with those cards that makes the difference." The assembly encourages students to take responsibility for their choices and stop blaming and accusing others. There is a 40 minute experience geared toward the upper grades, and a 30 minute experience geared toward the younger grades.
- We will have one more assembly in April from the Walnut Street Theatre. The upper grades will see "No Easy Road to Freedom," an engaging look at American diversity. The lower grades will see "The Emperor's New Clothes." The programs include a question and answer period after the show and teacher study guides to use in the classroom.
- Steve and Maura also noted that the Hip Hop group had difficulty with our sound system. The auxiliary plug-in is not working.

Community Affairs: Bridget Barton

- Thanks to Bridget Barton for a great Family Fun Night!

Ways and Means: Trish Loftus

- Trish is holding off on additional orders for the School Store to see if there is demand for more items.

New Business:

- We discussed the issue of a lack of volunteers for events. We still need a Home and School president and Auction chairs for next year.
- Emily also expressed a need for a Marketing director on staff to enhance strategies to market our school and increase exposure in the community.
- Meg Pensabene is running the Ice Cream Social at the Book Fair tonight. She has sixth grade and parent volunteers working with her. She will post reminders that parents need to accompany their kids to the Ice Cream Social.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 16, 8:15 am in the Adult Faith Formation room.**

Meeting Adjourned: 9:35 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathy Tavolaro.