

St. Alphonsus Home & School
Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2009 8:15 am, Adult Faith Formation Room

In Attendance: Msgr. Owens, Mr. John Steck, Mrs. Patti McNulty, Liz Fitzpatrick, Sherry Mischler, Beth Perri, Judy Morrissey, Dianne Signoretta, Judy Felix, Maura Zimmerman, Kellie Brogan, Terri Zajac, Angie McDonnell, Deb DeAngelis

Parish Report:

- Monsignor commented on how nice it is to have some former students participating in the weekend masses – as lectors, cantors, etc.
- Parish revenues have declined due to a decrease in the collection basket monies each week.
- The capital campaign is holding its own – interest balance on the decline.
- We need to get to a zero balance on our books by the fiscal year end, June 30th.

School Report:

- Art and Music programs will be increased in the fall with the addition of a full time music teacher (Mrs. Stack), school choir, hand bells, and more.
- Mr. Steck is finishing up his auction item parties – mini golf, pizza with the principal, etc.
- Teachers are already preparing for the fall semester, finishing up tests, class trips, etc.
- Enrollment is slightly higher this year (426 students to date). 8th Grade and K classes are full to capacity at this time, but new parents are still taking tours and filling the waiting list.
- Our class size will remain capped at 27.
- Terra Nova results have been received and will be mailed to parents this week.
- Eileen Wilson will speak at St. A's on May 28th, 7pm. Discussion will include the Terra Nova tests results and the Religion, Rigor, and Relevance mission of our catholic schools.
- Field Day is scheduled as usual for the last week of school. However, students will be dismissed at the regular time (i.e. - no half day).
- The parish garage sale, held last weekend, was very successful
- Our TV Studio, WSTA – Gator Cast will kick-off on Wednesday, May 27th.
- The new Math Program is scheduled to be implemented in the fall of 2010. H&S funds raised by the 2008 auction will be put aside for a supplement package to this program.
- A request was made to the IU for a remedial math teacher.

Treasurer's Report:

- Balance and Budget Reports were distributed for review and approval at the June meeting.

- The following cash distributions will be made by the end of our fiscal year, June 30th:
 1. \$25,000 – computer lab update.
 2. \$3,200 – diocese training program for teachers (tabled for next meeting).
 3. \$12-1400 – set up fee for Maestrosoft auction software and support (renew 6 month contract from last year).
 4. \$6,000 – set aside for math program supplements, 2010.
- The 2009 fundraiser focus will be a laptop cart. This includes 16 laptops, printer, and Wi-Fi connection. The cost of one is approximately \$20,000. Mr. Steck recommends a purchase of 3 carts.

Committee Chair Reports:

- **Ways and Means:** N/A
- **Social:** Terri reported that the Talent Show went well. 30 students participated. Angie will head up Teen Trivia Night, scheduled for June 5th, in the cafeteria.
- **Programs:** Judy and Maura will be looking into programs for the upcoming school year. An increase to the programs budget (\$1000.00) was recommended.
- **Community Affairs:** Kellie is planning the Ice Cream Social on Tuesday, June 16th.
- **Volunteers:** a Robbins Park volunteer is needed for next year.
- **Publicity:** N/A

Old Business:

- The following people have been unanimously elected to the 2009-10 H&S Board:
 1. Deb DeAngelis
 2. Emily Klammer
 3. Kathy Tavolaro
 4. Judy Morrissey
 5. Tricia Loftus
 6. Kathie Reilly
 7. Colleen Araco.
- The new members will be installed at our June meeting.
- General Home & School Meeting to be held on May 28th, 7:00 pm

New Business:

- Summary of feedback from the ballot form questionnaire was distributed and discussed. (Please see below.)

- Concerns were expressed about the safety of our playground. Several serious injuries have been reported recently. Supervision by the parents on yard duty will be more strictly enforced. Attempts will be made to spread the children out on the grounds as much as possible.

Next meeting, **Wednesday June 17, 8:15 am in the Library**

Meeting Adjourned: 10:00 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Liz Fitzpatrick.

Enclosure:

***St. Alphonsus Home and School
Feedback from Ballot Forms***

Question #1: One question that I'd like to ask the Home and School Board is:

- What specific items did this year's auction purchase or did it just go into the general expenses – assemblies, current enhancements, etc.
- Could you please push for volunteers for Robbins Park?
- What are our plans to make the parking area a safer place to play?
- Could the auction be moved to spring? I could donate more money if I were not also facing Christmas expenditures.

Question #2: One suggestion that I have for Home and School is:

- More interactive Father/Daughter event
- Have a social for young parents with only 1 or 2 kids in K-2 to encourage helping out in H&S without being overwhelmed.
- Better communication. It would have been nice to see an announcement about Mr. Delaney's baby. Communication = stronger community.
- Air-conditioning for all classrooms! My child has bad seasonal allergies and the allergist has recommended an air-conditioned environment.
- Classroom assistants so that parents are not needed so much for activities. I work and am unable to volunteer, which makes my child unhappy.
- A second set of playground equipment for older children.
- Revisiting other options in terms of school lunches. Healthier. Twin Spring Farms has good healthy options.

Other Comments:

- A vote of "Great" for the school nursing staff
- "Thanks for all that you do!"