



2009-2010 St. Monica PTO
GENERAL PTO MEETING
September 8, 2009

The General PTO Meeting was called to order at 12:05pm in the downstairs lounge of the Family Center. 48 people were in attendance.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Father Bierschenk. Father then introduced a new Seminarian, Charles Githinji, who will be assisting the Parish through June of 2010.

Pat McCain welcomed everyone and thanked Eileen Garvey for her hard work with meeting hospitality.

School Update Presentation – Camille Antes

Ms. Antes gave an update on the school. The beginning of the school year went very smoothly. The total enrollment is now 860 (preschool – 8th) and she asked everyone to reach out to new families and encourage them to tour our campus. The GAP campaign is doing very well; the playground is VERY well accepted by the lower grades with more space and activities. The administration is encouraging the teachers who have a free period to attend the PTO meetings if possible. Today's guests were Ms. Cleveland (K), Ms. Domingo (MS) and Ms. Beck (MS). The Parent Web is up and running but it is important for all parents to make sure their email address is correct in the office or they will not be able to access the information. The Parent Web will have Progress Reports, attendance and teacher's notes on the site. Any problems accessing the site or questions should be sent to either Ms. Antes (cantes@stmonicaschool.org) or Ms. D'Angelo (mdangelo@stmonicaschool.org). A question was raised by a parent about the school's decision to not broadcast President Obama's speech to the students. Ms. Dulac spoke about the timing of the broadcast and the disruption of classes and lunch times for the students.

Autumnfest – Deanna Walker

Deanna reminded everyone about the changes scheduled for this year's Autumnfest to be held on October 17, 2009. The time is from 12noon to 9:00PM with a live band and no more \$1 or \$3 raffle items. Her committee has put together several \$3.00 raffle ticket packages that will be won that evening. Families will be asked to buy and sell raffle tickets with a special incentive for the family that sells the most tickets from October 4 through October 15. A sample raffle ticket was passed out to the board with the packages that have been donated. She reminded us that the old raffle system was not cost efficient with the amount raised nor reflective of the work put into the baskets.

School Board Update – Barbara Malin

- Barbara spoke about the SMS School Board’s activities. She commented that the current student to teacher ratio has worked well for everyone. Kindergarten and 1st Grade have a 19:1 ratio and 2nd through 8th a 23:1 ratio. There is now an extra math teacher in the Middle School, allowing for most math classes to have only 18 to 19 students.
- This year had a very low turnover of teachers which has allowed for a nice continuity in the classroom. A large number of teachers have either gotten their Master’s Degree or are currently working on one.
- Last year brought the opening of the new Science labs and this year an upgrade of the Library is being planned.
- The Curriculum Committee has spent last year looking at our Music and Math program.
 - This past year has brought us a new Parish Music Director – Jeremy Wirth. He has begun several new music programs for the students including an afternoon program that included 50 4th – 7th graders singing in the Children’s Chorus of Greater Dallas Northwest Neighborhood Chorus. There are 30 2nd and 3rd graders singing in the Wednesday after school choir, 60-70 students singing in the Tuesday morning Mass and approximately 40 to 50 students singing in the children’s choir at Mass on Friday morning.
 - The Math Department has new texts in all grade levels with the exception of the Algebra book currently in use. St. Monica has had an incredible showing in different Math Competitions and last year’s 8th Grade class averaged in the 90th percentile on the Achievement Tests.
- Last year’s school budget ended in a slight surplus that was used to update the Fire Safety System. This year may be less. The Board is looking at the current tuition vs. enrollment size.
- Current goals of the School Board are:
 1. GAP Campaign – 100% participation and \$250,000 – looking for money and prayers from the community.
 2. Enrollment – increase it or keep student/teacher ratios comfortable.
 3. Positive Communication – not only from the school, but from parents, teachers and students.

PTO Website – Chris Vaughan

Chris, a parent of SMS students, has designed the new PTO website and gave us an overview of what it will be able to do for the PTO. The site can be reached through a link on the school website or with the web address of www.stmonicapto.org. The site will enable the user to access a Board/Committee/GLR list, PTO calendar, playground and cafeteria duty, volunteer opportunities, forms and a family directory (through a secured site). There is the possibility for an ecommerce link to allow for the purchase of sweatshirts, sponsorships and underwriting. Activity information and notices can be added and changed easily.

PTO Budget Presentation – Sally Wengierski

Sally presented a final version of the 2009-2010 PTO budget. Any surplus at the end of the fiscal year is earmarked for the Library upgrade. The main differences in the budget are: Autumnfest's net is listed at \$50,000. Budgeted expenses for Class Parties, Catholic Schools Week, 8th Grade Confirmation, Meeting Hospitality and PTO Supplies are slightly up. There are no Graduation Gifts or End of year Pizza Party in the budget. The new website is an expense but, by holding the New Family Party at school, a great amount of money was saved. A donation to the school of \$2,910 is budgeted and any additional net income will be added to the final donation.

A request was made by Anne Perez for the approval of the 2009-2010 budget as presented by Sally Wengierski. Jennifer Bowring made the motion and Christie Leonard seconded it. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Officer Reports

President Elect – Anne Perez spoke about the New Comers Guide that was given to each new family and made available on the website. She asked that everyone take a look at it and send her any changes, updates or suggestions for the next version.

1st Vice President – Juliet Erwin introduced her GLR: Veronica Fulton for the Preschool, Sonia Sorensen for Kindergarten, Nathalie Anderson for 1st and Tracey Anderhub along with Melinda Williamson for 2nd. She felt the Welcome Coffees were all well received and strongly encouraged the PTO to keep the Preschool Coffee on the schedule next year.

2nd Vice President – Kathie Wood introduced her GLR: Lesley Jordan for 3rd, Melissa Tehan for 4th and Felicia Miskell along with Lisa Norris for 5th. Third grade has cafeteria and playground duty this month. The 3rd grade also has their field trip to the State Fair scheduled for October 8 or 9.

3rd Vice President – Stephanie Nelson told us her GLR: Rhonda DeLaRosa along with Delissa Schlachter for 6th, Shari Ackels for 7th and Julie Nahra along with Tiffany Wines for 8th. Spirit Day is scheduled for October 2nd. The 8th graders just had their first First Friday Ice Cream Social and really enjoyed it.

Secretary – Laura Williamson asked all to check the PTO Board/Committee/GLR listing a final time for errors. She passed out the pink PTO shirts to everyone that had not gotten theirs and reminded the Home Room Parents they have one too. The drawing for the door prize – a wonderful brownie pan – was won by Lisa Norris.

Committee Reports

Spirit Store – Lisa Madden told us that all the ordered sweat shirts were in and being distributed.

Used Uniform Sale – Fran Drone/Leslie Wood was a great success with a net profit of \$2400 from \$5400 in sales being returned to the PTO. The next sale will be held on Sunday, January 10, 2010 with drop off scheduled for January 9 from 4 to 6. There will be a revamping of the procedures involved with drop-off and labeling. The idea of a small sale's commission being charged for items sold was also mentioned.

Closing Remarks – Pat McCain

Pat closed the meeting by talking about the different organizations being on one team for the school and our children. She mentioned the Dad's Club upcoming event – Casino Night – and how everyone benefits from the work put into the fund raiser. She asked us all to be willing to help with the event in any way we could.

Upcoming events on the school calendar:

Progress Reports (ONLY ON PARENT WEB) – September 22

Fair Day and Early Release – September 25

Spirit Day – October 2

Dad's Club Spaghetti Dinner – October 4

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm.

The next PTO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2009 in the downstairs lounge of the Family Center beginning at 12 noon.