

Resurrection-St. Paul Home & School Association

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday November 7, 2011

Present: Richard Lyons, Kitty O'Toole, Sue Ellen Grove, Barbara Romiti, Andrea Kagel, Karen Welsko, Sharon Ghazarian, Natalie Headley, Karen Oltmanns; Karen Murphy, Wendy Cottrell

- I. Call to Order – Richard Lyons/ Kathleen O'Toole
- II. Opening Prayer – Richard Lyons/ Kathleen O'Toole
- III. Committee Member Updates

Principal Update:

- We will have our semi- annual State of the School Address this coming Monday, November 7th. We will focus on standardized testing results from last Spring, our Acre results- both showing slight improvement overall. We will also talk about some of our new program initiatives including Northbay and our artist in residence program which ended November 1st. We will unveil our mural at the conclusion of the presentation.
- The Archdiocese has received Accreditation through AdvancED accrediting agency. Teams of Educators from across the country came into town and evaluated a sample of schools based on their seven standards. The Archdiocese was commended in three areas and received 4 required actions or opportunities requiring immediate attention. (See attached letter sent to parents last week)
- Our annual Walk for the Homeless was once again a successful undertaking. We raised an all- time high of \$2,152 in donations for St. Paul. We were blessed with a gorgeous day.
- Our first major fundraiser was a success. Our 50/50 raffle allowed us to give out \$17,100 in cash prizes and \$17,100 went to our annual budget. We have already started working on our next major fundraiser, our annual Gala which will take place Saturday, March 31st at Ten Oaks.
- Resurrection-St. Paul School will be celebrating its 90th Birthday in 2012. We are starting to plan how we will celebrate the event.
- When we received the ACRE Assessment for our 8th graders two weeks ago- we looked at the Affective section- that is the section of the test where the students rank things going on in their lives in relation to the Catholic Church. The number one perceived problem with this 8th grade is profanity, cursing, swearing. As a school team, we have seen this on the increase in the last year and are concerned at the casualness in which the students use it. We spoke with Fernando and he too is seeing this as in issue with his youth group and

he has a group of students who are putting together a presentation for the youth group and the same students have agreed to do the presentation for our 7th and 8th graders the Monday before Thanksgiving. We then will follow up with our 8th graders to start some sort of anti-profanity campaign.

- After hearing Ken Robinson speak last week, Kathleen O'Toole and I decided to host a book talk on his book entitled *The Element* for any parent or staff member who would like to join us on Tuesday, November 29th at 7pm. The book talks about how we are all born with the innate capacity to do great things and only a small percentage of us ever reach our full potential. That is what is meant in finding your "element". It discusses how education should help support each child to discover and develop their niche.
- This coming Saturday, Nov. 12th is school/parish grounds clean up morning! We will be raking leaves and bagging them up from 8-12pm. Everyone is welcome to join us! Just bring a rake. We will have donuts and cider (if that entices you!).
- Please keep the Williams family (Ian and Jocelyn) in your prayers this week. The child's grandfather passed away on Saturday.
- We are pleased that the Halloween costumes were appropriate this year.
- Please remember that discussions that occur in HSA meetings are to be kept confidential.

Additional items:

- Discussion about going to the website for info – not a regular pattern for some parents
- The hsa@resstpaul.org email box is not being checked and answered and thus not an effective way for parents to bring concerns. This email box will be checked on a more regular basis to alleviate this problem.
- Bob Buchta will begin forwarding the HSA email to Kitty and Rich's personal email box
- HSA email box usage to be mentioned in the newsletter

Treasurer Update – current balance \$46,562.52. Karen W. is working on spreadsheets to reconcile and have checks/balances in place. Valerie is checking on Vocelli's fundraiser and Red Robin checks to see where the funds are. We will send out a reminder to use Scripts and Innisbrook. Spirit Wear to be promoted to families starting this week.

Other issues raised:

Breakfast with Santa – volunteers have not been as forthcoming as in past years. Other committees have also expressed an interest in having tables at Back to School Night for volunteer hours information.

Clarification – lunch/recess duty is NOT double hours.

Clarification – boy scout, basketball, etc. parish functions that you volunteer at are 15 hours total for a family since these are parish and not school activities

In general – there is a decline in parent volunteers as the years go on. Are there things that we can do to help this issue? This will be brought to the School Board next week and a proposal will be put forth to see if changes can be made next academic year.

Comment from the community – a suggestion was made to have children bring a bag lunch instead of spending money on the hot dog/chips/drink. This concern is valid but the decision was made to have children eat and return to education as quickly as possible. Additional education around the homeless walk and lunch will be incorporated in the future.

VP Update – we will take more proactive measures to get families on the website.

Parent directory – although an email went out to the families regarding the parent directory, many families were still waiting for a hard copy. Another email will go out this week to tell parents that an electronic copy will be sent again this week with all updates.

Recording Secretary Update – no news

Fund Raising/Gala Update (Natalie)

- Fall Festival raffle brought in \$34,200 which will be split amongst the school and 8 winners.
- The Gala is officially moved to March 31st and is now at Ten Oaks. All sub-chair positions filled. Still need Gala chairs. Natalie posted on the mom's Facebook page for people to do things from home – several responded.
- Having a gala meeting on the 15th
- Karen M. would like to remind RSPS families that Natalie is not able to coordinate the gala, and thus we still need volunteers and persons to chair the event. The chairs are not responsible for bringing in the money, just coordinating the event. The gala will remain a parent-driven fundraiser.
- If the gala is not successful – there would be repercussions with a need for the operating budget to still be filled and thus another fundraiser
- Slides and info will be presented tonight at the SOS

IV. Adjournment – Richard Lyons/ Kathleen O'Toole