

# Holy Cross PTA Meeting

## October 3, 2018

### **Attendees**

Claudia Kosty, Kelly Shetsky, Marianne Fricke, Marie Adornato, Mary Rodman, Taylor Clark, Heather Cleary, Amy Renna, Jolie Johnston, Sharon DiFusco, Maria Reed, Nicole Mullen, Bridig Purtell, Samantha Herron, Derrick Herron, Joe Hens, Debbie Juliano, Courtney Moltion, Emilee Lawson Hatch, Beth Schafer, Maria Mannara, Katherina Searing, Tansy Schoonmaker, Tina Krupa, Natalia Kang

### **Opening Prayer (Father Kurgan)**

Introductions of attendees and PTA officers

**Review and approval of June 2018 minutes** – Motion to approve (M. Mannara) Second by (S. Herron)

**Review and approval of September 2018 minutes**- Motion to approve the minutes (B. Purtell) Second by (M. Mannara)

**Review and approval of PTA By Laws** – Motion to approve (H. Cleary) Second by (M. Rodman)

**Principal's report (M. O'Leary)**- Today we had the 1<sup>st</sup> round of I Ready testing for grades K-6. This is online testing to determine what level the kids are at and what areas need to be addressed more. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of testing. During the testing, the teachers are able to see if the child is going too fast. It also gets more or less challenging depending on how the child is answering the questions to get an accurate assessment on the child's abilities. J. Hens asked what it tests – M. O'Leary states today ELA was tested. In the future the Math will be tested. Also this Friday is the school mass is at 9, Specials Persons Day following.

**Father Kurgan's Report** – Notes he is impressed by the large group of people attending the PTA meeting, and the parent involvement at Holy Cross. Fall festival cards received today, weather looking good for this event at the church October 14. Father Matt was also interested in being present at tonight's meeting, but had another conflict today. Father Matt is looking for children grades 3-6 who are interested in being altar servers. Please contact the church if your child is interested.

**Treasurer's report- (M O'Leary)** Leigh is currently out of the country, detailed report and yearly budget will be managed when she returns.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**End of Year Picnic Committee**- Reminder that Amy Renna and Taylor Clark are going to chair the event this year. We are hoping to have this be more of a field days type event. Please consider being part of this committee. M Mannara asks if all the parents volunteering need to be Virtus trained. M. O'Leary and Father Kurgan both answer stating that no child can be left alone with an un-Virtus trained person. Will look further to see if there is a clear ratio of children allowed under each Virtus trained person. The hope is that all parents will consider being Virtus trained. However, any person running an event MUST be Virtus trained. A. Renna will send out an email to class parents as to which parents are currently Virtus trained for awareness during class parties, for situations like a child needing to go get a drink or go to the bathroom. Also similar situation for activities such as BBA, if the coaches themselves are not Virtus trained, the chair needs to be present at all times. The classes for Virtus training being held at Holy Cross are full, but Julie will make arrangements if there are other people interested. Please contact the church if you are interested.

**Back to School Picnic 2018**- Per note from C. Giamartino, All went well, well attended, good weather. Everyone had a great time. There was food leftover, which something to consider for next year.

**Pizza Day Volunteers – (M. Mannara)** We have had great coverage so far, and many new faces helping. Thank you for all your help.

**Spring Programs** – Please Submit by November 16<sup>th</sup>: If you are interested in heading a club. Joe Hens suggested letting the heads of the upcoming clubs what other activities are on the same day. Some clubs may have the flexibility to change days to allow more students interested in multiple clubs to join.

**Auction Update (M. Reed)** Next Meeting October 24, we have a great committee, but would love more people involved. H. Cleary – asked how you decide how the money is used, that the teachers have some ideas they would like to be considered. M Reed states that they typically have a meeting to discuss options. She would like to meet to discuss what suggestions the teachers have. H. Cleary states that the playground is a concern, and could use some updating. M. Mannara asked if there will be a gate put up for the road going down to the playground? F. Kurgan – states there are several laws and specifications on what is required. They are getting variable opinions, but they are in the process of working through that. S. DiFusco asked if all the classrooms got chromebooks from last year Auction proceeds. M O'Leary states yes, and that all the classrooms have new projectors as well as in Mrs. Poppe's office.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Virtus Training** – Question was asked during conversation of End of Year Picnic if everyone is aware of what Virtus training is, especially new parents. (Virtus training is a program created by the National Catholic Risk Retention Group in the US with a “Protecting God’s children” component to combat sexual abuse of children - Wikipedia). Virtus training is 2 ½ -3 hours, and is good for 5 years. The recertification is an hour. JoAnn Markert has a list of parents and their dates of training if you are unsure, please ask. A suggestion was made that because new parents may be unfamiliar with what Virtus training is, an email could be sent out school wide. Maria Reed also adds we can consider adding it to Heard, the more exposure the better. M. Adornato suggested each parent should be required to be trained.

**Teacher Luncheon – (A. Renna)** We are going to have a new procedure this year. One reason is due to the variable number of kids per class. We are asking for \$10 per family rather than per child. We are trying to even out the cost of luncheon fairly, regardless of how many kids are in the class, the number of teachers to feed is the same. Past years all classes did their luncheon differently. Either pot luck or bringing prepared food in, some times classes were using money from class fund meant for class parties. They had discussed different options and asked some of the teachers, and they agreed that having prepared food or “catered” was the best option. Pot luck in the past often had so much food leftover, and then set up and clean up was time consuming. H Cleary agreed that prepared food is preferred, and thanked the parents for the luncheons, stating how much they appreciate it. Also due to numbers, each class gets same amount of money. S Herron asked if we would have the budget amount, A. Renna states she will send out an email to room parents when the dollar amount is known. Also a suggestion was made to notify the room parents of what brought for previous months to eliminate same choices. M. O’Leary discussed not overdoing it, a lot of leftovers are unnecessary.

**Assistant Treasurer Position Nominations** – No nominations made this evening. S. Difusco said that if there is no other interest, Rick DiFusco would consider taking this position.

**Open Discussion** – B. Purtell had questions regarding the recent change in school closing decision. M. O’Leary states this was an unusual morning, and JD must have known something that she did not know, CBA was also unaffected. When it is a predictable closing she will be up at 5 am to look at the other school districts, weather, bussing etc. She understands that day, some people had to make other arrangements due to work schedules. She notified parents as soon as she was able to. Under normal circumstances, school closing days will always be on Channel 9 first. She has to go through Rediker. C. Kosty also noted that in the future if a school wide message gets sent out through Heard, she will clarify that her message is “per Martha O’Leary”.

-(A. Renna) Tuesday October 9, there will be a joint meeting for parents who are interested in helping out for the Halloween Howl as well as for International Night. Please consider joining us 6:45 in the Library.

-(B.Purtell) Has concerns regarding the low class size in Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade, she inquired what the school does regarding advertising. M.O’Leary reports they are aware of this and considering ways for advertisement. In recent years the upper grades have been increasing in size, but we also want the lower grades to grow as well. J. Hens commented that the Montessori School has a 3 year cycle, we may be able to gear focus to those kids, who may consider coming to Holy Cross.

*Upcoming Events:*

**Special Person Day on Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>:** (M. Adornato)- Few kids have not sent in their RSVP. Mary Radford plans to set up the night before. Each grade will have a table in the gym to reduce congestion as they check in. Everyone will get a name tag, we will have more than enough. Should be a fun event. J. Johnston asked about the snacks for kids who have food allergies, and it was noted that there are separate snacks for the kids who need them.

**Halloween Howl on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>:** (B. Purtell)- Planning is going well, this year we are going for a Halloween fair feel. We hope to have less focus on candy and more focus on Halloween fun. We are hoping everyone comes in costumes including parents. For the costume contest they will have a class list, and this year will have a separate category for siblings. N. Mullen – we are looking for volunteers please consider joining. C. Kosty advised that they should talk to M. Reed to get volunteer info on the Heard App.

**Moms Night Out** – October 16<sup>th</sup> 6:30 Chop House on Waring, hope to see you all there.

**Book Fair (M. Mannara)** Originally we were thinking that one of the book fairs would be at Barnes and Noble, but they have changed their rewards system, which will no longer benefit us. This did not seem to be the best option, and Scholastic still seems to be the best option. We will continue with that. Both book fairs this year will be around the concert dates. The first book fair is Dec 10-14. Although the Christmas concert is in the church, we will still be set up in the library to browse before the concert. We will be looking for volunteers, 1<sup>st</sup> day is wish lists for the kids, next day is to buy. Please contact with questions and concerns. All dates are on the Heard App.

Next Meeting Weds, November 7th at 7 pm.

Meeting adjourned – 7:40 pm Minutes Respectfully Submitted, Marianne Fricke