

Holy Cross PTA Meeting Minutes November 6, 2019

Attendees: R. DiFusco, S. DiFusco, K. Eberline, S. Herron, J. Johnston, C. Kosty, T. Krupa, M. O'Leary, A. Okonkwo, A. Renna, D. Rys, B. Schafer, K. Shetsky

Opening Prayer – Beth Schafer

Approval of September 2019 minutes – 1st A. Renna, 2nd S. DiFusco

Principal's Report – It is an uneventful time of year right now. First round of i-Ready testing is complete. Parents can get explanations on the diagnostic testing during their upcoming teacher conferences. Teachers' assessments are far more comprehensive than i-Ready. We don't use their curriculum; some other local schools do.

Yesterday was a teacher in-service day at Immaculate Conception with speaker Matt Davidson. M. O'Leary asked Dan Rys to comment on what he thought of the speaker. Dan felt that Matt was motivating. He talked about burning out, gave good ideas and input on approaching the job. He encouraged teachers not to be afraid to try different things. It was an energizing speech, very well done.

Dan Rys and Monica Kolinski will alternate as the teacher representative at future PTA meetings.

Father Kurgan's Report – Not present tonight.

Treasurer's Report (R. DiFusco) – Total income is currently \$8,170. That includes \$2,300 from sports, \$4,000 from student activities and clubs, and \$600 from programs. Current expenses total \$13,000. This is from instructional supplies and prior year auction expenses. There is currently \$68,000 in the bank.

Halloween Howl – Income was \$723, expenses were \$840.

OLD BUSINESS

Special Person Day – K. Shetsky said that it was a success; it's a well-oiled machine. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

Mrs. Rys Story Hour – K. Eberline said that about 25 kids attended; they all enjoyed listening to Mrs. Rys tell Halloween stories. K. Shetsky asked D. Rys if she enjoys doing it. He said yes, she has been running a storytelling club for 25 years.

Halloween Howl – M. O'Leary said that Brigid Purtell did a fantastic job. Her hard work is very appreciated. The general feeling was that having everything in the gym is much better and safer. It makes the event much more manageable. The event is geared toward the younger kids, we should look into having something in the future that the older kids would enjoy. We will need more snacks next year or a volunteer to monitor the snack table and how many each child takes.

Halloween Parade & parties – No complaints. K. Shetsky noted that we want to make sure that the teachers are happy, and they all seem to like the timeline and flow of events. Room parents work with teachers to manage expectations for the parties. A. Renna asked that room parents make sure to get expenses in before Thanksgiving.

NEW BUSINESS

Holy Cross School Spirit Store (A. Renna)– It is all online and orders will be accepted until November 14th. Items are available to try on in Nina Walters' office. They are not to be worn as part of the uniform, but a great option to wear to and from school or to school sporting events. They are a great way to show school pride. The crewneck sweatshirt and hoodies are great options; very popular. Martha will have to send a reminder out as it nears the end of the sale. To purchase, the website is: <https://holycrosspride.itemorder.com/sale>

Scholastic Book Fair (K. Shetsky) – Brigid Purtell will be heading up the event. It's currently scheduled for May, the same week as the spring concert and right before the auction. She's looking into alternative dates. Scholastic would like it to coincide with an evening activity, possibly another Story Hour with Mrs. Rys. No fall book fair this year.

Spelling Bee (M. O’Leary) – Grades 4 – 6 will participate in the spelling bee. There will be a written test right before Thanksgiving, the date will be provided to the students. The oral bee has to be done during the second week of December. Four finalists go onto CBA to take a written test to qualify for the local spelling bee contest in January. Kids really enjoy participating in this contest.

Poinsettia Sale (K. Shetsky) – Lisa Bannon will be in charge this year. M. O’Leary will send the flyer home with students tomorrow. The pricing remains the same as last year.

Auction (A. Renna) – There was a meeting tonight; next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11th at 7:00 pm. The committee chairs are set up, but we are still looking for more people to help and volunteer. Auction is Saturday, May 16th at 5:30 pm in Yeazel Hall. The theme is “Lights, Camera... Auction!” Karen’s Catering will cater again, Nina Walters will be the auctioneer, and Mac Cadaret will most likely be the MC again. Raffle ticket sales will kick-off at the Christmas concert, which is Thursday, December 12th. Tickets will go home with kids the next day. We will need volunteers for sales at church after mass; we are also looking for volunteers to sell raffle tickets at other churches. Sam Herron (pluto2186@yahoo.com) & Kate Eberline (kathryn.e.waters@gmail.com) are in charge of solicitation. If anyone has any ideas or connections for donations, please reach out to either of them.

International Night (K. Shetsky) – The event is scheduled for Saturday, March 28th. Amy Renna and Kate Eberline are co-chairs, but looking for additional helpers. Ideally, it would be someone, or multiple volunteers, that could shadow and take over the event next year. They will need to help find entertainment for the evening and will dress tables before each country sets up that day. Martha will send out an email with the details and calling for volunteers. If anyone is interested, they should reach out to Amy Renna (amymr13@msn.com) or Kate Eberline (kathryn.e.waters@gmail.com).

Spring Afterschool Clubs – A. Renna stated that the gym is booked until beginning of March with CYO basketball. Clubs are April to end of May or beginning of June. S. Difusco said Trista would return to do yoga. She’d like to do another session starting in January. The music room should be able to accommodate up to 15 students since the gym is unavailable. A. Renna said that Keith Cieplicki will return to do basketball. A. Renna noted that Katrina Searing may be doing a science club. Sue Fix will be doing art club again. J. Johnston is considering a running club; she will reach out to the running community for help.

Drama club is looking to do a show at the end of May or beginning of June. They are working around the spring concert, which may be moved to the church to alleviate the conflict with the stage. A flyer will go out looking for parent volunteers to help with the play. Practice is a total of 16 weeks. Rehearsals are every Tuesday; twice a week as it nears the performance.

K. Shetsky suggested sending out a survey to gauge interest in who would want to participate in upcoming clubs. Anyone else that’s interested in running or volunteering with a club, should contact Kelly Shetsky. Deadline to submit ideas is mid-January.

OPEN DISCUSSION

J. Johnston said that her girls really enjoyed the recent motivational speaker, Mike McCoy.

B. Schafer stated that the deadline for the toiletries and paper goods collection at church is November 17th. J. Johnston offered to monitor a drop-off box at school. The church is also collecting colorless lip balm and hard-wrapped candy for jail ministry. That deadline is December 15th.

J. Johnston thanked everyone for the clothing donated for the refugee closet. They are still collecting and particularly need winter coats and boots for both kids and adults. The drop-off box will be left in the school lobby for more donations.

A. Renna is looking for places to post open house flyers, such as preschools, pediatrician offices, and libraries. They will be posted over winter break to advertise the February 4th open house event. If you have a place, please let her know so she can print the right amount of flyers.

B. Schafer indicated that the church is still looking for a pageant director, if anyone is interested. This includes three practices and a lot of planning. The pageant would be held on Sunday, December 15th after 5:00 pm mass. If no one volunteers, the pageant will be cancelled. Something small would be done on Christmas Eve instead, most likely a procession.

Meeting Adjourned – 7:50 pm

Minutes Respectfully Submitted, K. Eberline