

Holy Cross PTA Meeting Minutes January 8, 2020

Attendees: M. Adornato, R. DiFusco, S. DiFusco, K. Eberline, S. Herron, T. Heyer, M. Kolinski, M. O'Leary, B. Purtell, A. Renna, B. Schafer, K. Shetsky

Opening Prayer – Beth Schafer

Approval of November 2019 minutes – 1st A. Renna, 2nd B. Purtell

Principal's Report – The December luncheon, hosted by the 6th grade, was lovely. The teachers had a great time and were very appreciative. Also, a thank you to the parents that helped supervise the classes while the teachers enjoyed their lunch together. The children had a wonderful time with Steve and Dan, as they competed in games to earn points for their Faith Formation houses. We are now back at it after two weeks off, and there is a lot on everyone's plates. The next few months will be very busy!

Father Kurgan's Report – Not present tonight.

Treasurer's Report (R. Difusco) – Total at the end of the year was \$87,496, comprised of funds at NBT (\$68,500) and a brokerage account (\$18,662). Net loss year-to-date was just under \$4,600, which is as expected. Total income of \$11,275, mainly from sports activities and clubs, ice cream and dress down days. Expenses of \$15,873, primarily for teacher supplies, playground equipment and upkeep. Leigh Marquis moved some money from our checking account to our savings account.

OLD BUSINESS

Spelling Bee (M. O'Leary) – The competition was a lot of fun for the students to watch. There was a bit of controversy with Valentina and Owen. Owen said a letter twice while spelling his word. Multiple judges heard it. He most likely repeated the letter after he had briefly paused, which was unfortunate. The top four spellers from Holy Cross now go to CBA to compete. There will be a written test of 40 words. The competition there is very tough.

December 18th Events (Class Parties, Teacher Luncheon, Ice Cream Day, Faith Formation Activities) (M. O'Leary) – The day was definitely loud and insane, but not much more compared to the average school day. It may have been a lot for one day, but it was better to do it all in one day than interrupt any learning time. Kelly Shetsky commented that she received concerns from Room Parents that it was too much for one day. Parents worked hard to plan classroom parties, and they were overshadowed by so many other events. At least Ice Cream Day could've been moved, as it was sugar-overload for the kids. Martha replied that, in the future, we would try not to schedule everything on one day. Marie Adornato suggested that the Faith Formation activities could've been relocated to the gym. It was a bit dangerous to try to combine it with lunchtime. Martha said that the Faith Formation events will most likely be held once a quarter.

Spring After-school Clubs (K. Shetsky) – We have received a good amount of submissions for after-school clubs. We have a great mix of extracurricular activities for various age groups and interests. A calendar is being finalized, but most clubs will get the day and time that they requested. The deadline for club submissions is Friday, January 10th. Forms will most likely go out on Monday, January 13th. Choices will be Drama Club, Science Club, Bricks for Kidz, Art Club, Basketball, Fencing, Yoga, and possibly a Crime Club.

Pizza Bingo – January 17th (A. Renna) – This is our first year doing it. We are hoping to build excitement for the auction and create a fun night for families. Cam's Pizza will be catering; they have a mobile oven and will make all of the pizzas onsite. An e-vite will go out on Thursday, January 9th. Students will be sent home with pre-order forms for the food.

Open House – February 4th (K. Shetsky) – The billboard looks great and has been catching people's attention. The large sign in front of church also looks great. Yard signs have been distributed. An email went out today about volunteering for the event. Parents can use Sign-up Genius to sign-up to give tours, work the welcome table, pass out refreshments, etc. An email will go out to teachers to see if they can think of anything else that might be beneficial to have at the event. Amy Renna noted the importance

of meeting beforehand to review talking points with tour guides. It was agreed that PTA would supply pizza, and volunteers could arrive at 4:45 pm to eat and prepare for the tours. Everyone is welcome to help with this event. If someone is not comfortable giving a tour, there are plenty of other jobs. We will also need kids in the classrooms and gymnasium.

Valentine's Day Ball – February 7th (A. Renna) – Two meetings are scheduled for next week; the first is on Tuesday, January 14th at 3:00 pm, and the second is on Wednesday, January 15th at 6:15 pm in the library. Anyone that is interested in helping is encouraged to attend either meeting.

International Night – March 28th (A. Renna) – We are still looking for someone to take over the event. Ideally, they would shadow this year and run it next year. An email will go out on February 10th to last year's volunteers to see if they're interested in hosting a country again.

Auction – May 16th (A. Renna) – There is a meeting next Wednesday, January 15th at 7:00 pm in the library. Raffle tickets were distributed to teachers today and will go home with students soon.

Scholastic Book Fair (B. Purtell) – The Scholastic rep said that we need to come to them with a firm date. We want it to coincide with a 'Story Hour with Mrs. Rys'. Monica Kolinski offered to follow up with Dan Rys to find out if Mary Rys would be willing to do another event for us.

NEW BUSINESS

Catholic Schools Weeks – January 26th to February 1st (M. O'Leary) – The week will kick-off with mass on Sunday at 10:30 am. Forms will be going home to see which children will be available to participate. It's important that students be in their uniforms.

Monday - We will do a blessing of the students, along with the annual rainbow photo. Father Kurgan will be out of town most of the week for the March for Life rally, so we will ask Father Matt to be present.

Rainbow Day Shirts:

Pre-K - Red
Kindergarten – Orange
1st Grade – Purple
2nd Grade – White
3rd Grade – Yellow
4th Grade – Green
5th Grade – Light Blue
6th Grade – Black

There will be a performance by DownBeat Percussion. Students are asked to bring warm, adult socks.

Tuesday – Wacky Tacky Day. Pancake Breakfast hosted by the teachers. An email will be going out to Room Parents to watch the classrooms during this time. \$2 donation to Amaus Medical Services.

Wednesday – Pre-K to 3rd Grades: Movie and PJ Day; 4th to 6th Grades: Bowling Day, \$2 donation to Golisano Children's Hospital

Thursday – Community Service Day. Students will be stuffing the socks with toiletries. They may wear shirts representing their favorite sports teams.

Friday – Red & White Day. Bishop Lucia is coming; we will gift him with a Holy Cross sweatshirt. The games start at 1:00 pm. Parents are encouraged to come watch and cheer the students on as they compete.

Yearbook (A. Renna) – Amy and Brian Renna will be putting the yearbook together this year. Anyone that was in charge of a fall club should email photos to Amy (amymr13@msn.com) by February 1st. The photos should be at least 1 MB; no thumbnails. Please include names of children in the photos and a brief description.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Brigid Purtell offered to coordinate a “Joey Pouch Sew-A-Thon” to assist with the Australian wildfires. Martha O’Leary liked the idea, but feared that everyone is already too busy with so many events going on at the school right now. Kelly Shetsky suggested that we table the event and revisit it in February. If there’s still a need, the schedule might be better at that time.

Sam Herron asked when the Valentine’s Day parties would be. Since February 14th falls on the Friday before winter break, we risk having a snow day and losing the party entirely. Everyone was in agreement that the parties should be held on Thursday, February 13th.

Beth Schafer brought a message from Peg Olson, Office Manager at Holy Cross Church. Peg said that she would like to know the dates that we’re selling raffle tickets in the library so that she can include it in the bulletin. Martha O’Leary said that she’d send Peg the schedule that was approved by Father Kurgan.

Motion to Adjourn – 1st M. O’Leary, 2nd B. Purtell

Meeting Adjourned – 8:12 pm

Minutes Respectfully Submitted, K. Eberline