

# **St. Robert Home & School Association**

## **Minutes for October 21, 2009**

**Present:** Lauren Beckmann, Amy Hietpas, Karen Hunt, Lisa Lesjak, Yvonne Luzney, Pam Mattox, Dennis Reilly, Wendy Scherwenka, Joan Schramka, Kathy Wyatt, Sally Zale, Sara Coffou

**Excused:** Susan Joy, Wendy Wallace

### **I. Reflection**

### **II. President's Report – Sally Zale**

- **Family Matters:** Sally will only submit H&S information and updates every other week instead of every week. We would like to encourage the use of the website calendar to keep updated with H&S events as well as other school events. A link to the calendar will be located on the front page of Family Matters to serve as an easy way to check the calendar.

### **III. Principal's Report-Lauren Beckmann**

- The staff is in the process of curriculum mapping. The mapping will start with math to work out the problems and challenges. New subjects will then be added one at a time until all subjects are included. This process will allow teachers to view each other's maps as well as providing accountability to standards across content and skills.
- Teachers have been going through training on Edline. Teachers will have their own classroom pages which will include classroom news, assignments, tests, grades and progress reports. There will be customized calendars for every student, which will include a calendar with all their subjects. The calendar will include lessons, homework and online links to textbooks. The middle school students will have their own log in, separate from their parents, which will give them some independence and accountability.
- Investigations Math implementation is going very well. Students have been spending time in the classroom thinking about math and applying deeper, richer thinking. In order to assess the success of the program they will need to document progress to baseline data. One assessment for the baseline will probably be the Iowa Test Scores.
- The elevator unit was delivered last week. The mechanicals should come this week. It should take approximately 2 more weeks and the elevator will be completed. They are targeting the opening for early to mid November.
- The school advisory board is reworking the St. Robert mission statement. The new mission statement should be ready for review next month. They are

working on simplifying the mission statement by breaking open the vision statement in terms of values. They are concentrating on 6 words to describe the core values, which will ultimately lead to a vision statement.

- Father Dennis has described the current parish financial health as bleak. As a result of the financial situation the parish can only commit to the \$140K originally budgeted and not the \$190K that is needed to cover the current school budget. They will need to find approx \$40K to cut out of the budget this year. Some ideas might be able to hold back on purchasing some new text books for next year or possibly reducing the technology budget.

#### **IV. Other Reports**

##### **Marketing & Development-Lisa Lesjak**

K4 enrollment for next year looks more promising in terms of numbers than last year. There are at least 15 returning families. Just recently there has been a flurry of interest in the school. Based on enrollment in the past few years they have discovered that there are several windows of opportunity for enrollment in at many different grade levels. Kindergarten is not the one and only opportunity to increase enrollment.

The annual fund mailings are ready to send out soon. So far there are approximately 36 people that have RSVP'd for the Annual Fund Party at the Zale's.

The first issue of this year's Blueprint will go to the printers next week. The Blueprint issues should be mailed out sometime in November.

##### **Parish Council-Kathy Wyatt**

The Parish Council is working on the issue of church attendance which is currently at an all time low. The only Mass that is not declining in attendance is the 5:30pm Mass on Sunday. The main goal will be to increase Mass attendance by increasing the vibrancy of the Mass, bringing people back that haven't been attending and to keep them coming back. One thing that is coming back is the children's liturgy of the word. The Parish Council is welcoming any ideas people may have to increase Mass attendance. Some ideas that came from the proceeding discussion is holding a children's Mass or bringing the nursery back.

Interest in scrip is starting to pick up. Catherine is working to set up the website for online ordering.

##### **Treasurer-Dennis Reilly:**

Dennis passed out the balance sheet and income statements. Dennis transferred money from the Baird investment account to the Wells Fargo checking account to cover some of the bigger expenses that have recently come due, such as the annual school budget contribution and the technology improvement fund. Net income from H&S fundraising events continues to grow. In addition, Dennis handed out a summary report on the balance of discretionary funds showing the status of open and closed projects and the associated

spending. The budget for the technology plan should be discussed in the next couple of months so there is a better understanding of the long term financial commitment.

Lauren reported on the new staff PC's that were purchased by Home & School with the funds from the Technology Fund. She noted that the new PC's were without sound (an oversight when ordering) and funds were needed to finance the purchase of computer speakers. Dennis reported that there were still additional monies available from the Boards original approval of buying the computers, wireless system and SMART Board. The Board Members agreed that if we were still within budget of our original budgeted amount that Lauren should order the necessary computer speakers and send Dennis the invoice for payment from the Technology Fund.

**Volunteers-Susan Joy:** (Sally Zale reporting): Art for Youth has enough volunteers. Volunteers were asked if they could take several grades. Safe Environment training at St. Robert will take place sometime in November. In order to chaperone field trips, parents will need to have completed the training.

## V. **Wrap-Up Events**

- **Rummage Sale:** Pam: The rummage sale was very successful. They exceeded their goal by \$5.6K. Expenses aren't fully in yet, but they are expected to be low. The chairs and volunteers worked very hard for this success and were an amazing team. The chairs have put together a final report that Pam will mail to the rest of the H&S board. Most of the chairs plan to chair again next year, but would like to have an additional chair to help with all the tasks. There was also a general perception that there weren't as many volunteers as in past years and possibly more structure was needed with the volunteers. The chairs plan to have a post-mortem to review recommendations for next year in the next few weeks.
- **Magazine Drive-**Pam: The outcome thus far for the magazine drive is well below last year at approx. \$17K vs. \$34K raised last year. Joe is willing to continue the drive until Christmas; however he is looking for suggestions on how to keep the momentum going. Some suggestions that were brought up are to possibly have a classroom competition to see which class can sell the most subscriptions. The magazines can be ordered throughout the year so this must be emphasized as well. Pam will contact Joe and Lauren to brainstorm some school incentives with competition between classes with visibility to the entire school.
- **Portraits in the Park-**Pam: 19 families signed up and only 2 families didn't show up. Next year they would like to move the weekend possibly 1 to 2 weeks later in hopes that participation might be better. However, moving the date to later in October could increase the chances for bad weather for an outdoor sitting.

## VI. **On-going Committees/Events**

- **Tech Crew**—Joan: Kent Maly is the new chair for the Tech Crew and he will be working at the Boo Bash with Wayne. Sally will contact Wayne to discuss having some kind of apprenticeship for Kent to learn from Wayne what the tech crew needs to do at each event. Kent's new role will include documenting all the tech crew information for each event so information can be handed off more easily as chairs change.
- **Class Parties**- Wendy S.: The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade party will take place at the Coffou's in January. The Stelter's will host the 5<sup>th</sup> grade party on February 6<sup>th</sup>. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade party will be hosted by the Linn's, 7<sup>th</sup> grade by the Vitucci's and 8<sup>th</sup> grade by the Aasen's. All the middle school parties will take place in 2010.
- **Olweus**-Amy: A faculty leadership team will be heading up the bullying prevention program. They are looking for parent representatives to meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 2:15pm. The focus will be on bullying prevention as well as adding other elements such as starting a library collection on tolerance and booking a motivational speaker. Parent reps are being encouraged and if there is a problem with the day and time of the week for the meeting, they might consider forming a separate parent group as well.

## VII. Upcoming Events

- **Coffee Reception (Oct. 23-New Families)**-Amy: Everything is ready for the event.
- **Boo Bash/Eighth Grade Fundraising (Oct.24)**-Pam: Lynn Frieske has everything on target for the Boo Bash. Signage will be created to with a simplified version of the school code of conduct to be prominently displayed at the event. The code of conduct specifically outlines student and parent responsibilities.
- **Trivia Night (Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>)**-Wendy S: There has been a lot of confusion on the dates because they were switched around so much. Many of the current committee members have been on the committee for several years and would like to pass the torch and get new committee members to help run this fall and spring Trivia Night and shadow the existing committee to take over next year. They plan to announce the need for new committee members at Trivia Night and post something in Family Matters.
- **Emerald Auction**-The auction committee is meeting every two weeks now. Pandl's will no longer be doing the dinner. The committee is currently working on getting bids for the dinner.
- **Spirit Wear**- Catherine Mercuri will be putting out an order form soon for more spirit wear specifically for the colder weather. The entire staff will be receiving vests.

**Next H&S Meeting-Wednesday, November 18th at 6:30-9:00 pm in room 207.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Yvonne Luzney, Secretary