

Our Lady of Grace Catholic School
Parent School Organization
Meeting Minutes of September 15, 2009
9:30 a.m. – School Library

Board Members Present: Mia Liebl, Patty Boo Pryor, Sheila Folkestad, Jeanne Gathje, Sabine Shea, Lucia Paul, Amy Pumarlo, Lori Wagener, Kathleen Johnson, Tammy McGarvey, Debbie Harper, Kristi Herro, Betsy Violante, Kim Gross, Elizabeth Gorman, Steph Sislo, Jen Williams, Ann Olson, Zeny McCoy, Kerry Koch, Lori Ziemba, Amy Garrity, Kelly Kirsch, Heather Rocheford, Georgia Bowen, Erin Brass, Jamie Pohl, Lara Howell, Maureen Trenary

Mia Liebl called the meeting to order. The opening prayer was done by Tammy McGarvey and Debbie Harper.

Secretary's Report: Jeanne Gathje

Jeanne reported that there was a clarification to the information about band rehearsal times for this school year that was printed in the minutes for September 1st meeting. The Intermediate Band does meet from 3-4 p.m. on Wednesdays as reported. However, the Beginner Band meets from 7:30 a.m. until the school bell rings on Thursdays. This information has been added to the minutes for the September 1st meeting. Those minutes were then approved.

Treasurer's Report: Sheila Folkestad

Sheila reported that she will present the Proposed 2009-2010 PSO Budget at the two upcoming PIE Nights. She will then present it at our next PSO meeting in October at which time it will be voted on for approval.

Principal's Report: Maureen Trenary

Mrs. Trenary enthusiastically reported that she had just received official word that morning that Our Lady of Grace School has been named a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. This is the second time in seven years that our school has received this award. Although the announcement was made today, Mrs. Trenary reminded everyone that an award like this is earned over time and she thanked everyone there for all they do to help make our school great. She reported that all students would be treated to popsicles that afternoon to celebrate. The school will continue to celebrate in other ways as the school year continues. Mrs. Trenary is working on a trip to the Twins game at the new stadium some time next spring. She is also hoping that Archbishop Nienstedt will be able to come to one of our Wednesday School masses to help us celebrate. Mrs. Trenary and Mrs. Nikrad will be traveling to Washington DC on Nov. 2nd and 3rd to officially receive the award. On behalf of the PSO, Mia thanked Mrs. Trenary and Sheila Letscher for all of the work they did to help us get this award.

Committee Reports:

Registration: Lara Howell

Lara reported that allowing new families with kids in K-3 to register at New Family Night went really well. The new families appreciated the less congested atmosphere and extra attention. Next year, Lara would like to allow all new families to register that night, not just those with kids in K-3. Lara thanked the New Family chairs for all of their help.

Registration Day itself went well. At the end of the day, only five packets were not picked up. There was some congestion during the morning hours. Plans are already being made to address this for next year to try to speed things up. Having two volunteers at each cashier station will help. Also, adjusting the start times of the One-to-One Training and the opening of Registration will help spread out the rush. Since the end of the day is really slow and the morning so busy, it was suggested that registration run from 9:00-4:00 next year instead of 10:00-5:00. This will probably be tried next year.

Lara asked people to please thank Starbucks and Breadsmith for their donations of coffee and food for Registration day. Lara has thanked them, but she thought it would be nice if others would as well.

Marathon: Tammy McGarvey & Debbie Harper

The information letter was mailed out to OLG families last Friday. The kick-off Pep Fest will be this Friday (Sept. 18th) at 8:45 a.m. in the school gym. Liz Neuberger is organizing the Pep Fest. The theme for this year is an Olympic theme and the slogan is "Going for the Gold". The fundraising goal is once again \$100 per child.

Lots of volunteers have signed up to help. However, more help is still needed for Set Up, Clean Up and Safety. If you could help out in any of these areas, please contact Tammy or Debbie. They will also be asking for high schoolers who may want to help.

Gift Wrap: Kerry Koch

Orders are coming in quite slowly. Kerry and Zeny are hoping this is normal. They are going to send out half sheet reminders in backpack mail with every student. They will also be on the PIE Night agenda to remind parents to place their order. The orders can once again be placed online, and it is quite easy to do. A short discussion was held on the timing of this fundraiser. We seem to revisit this topic yearly just because of the rush that occurs at the beginning of the school year.

Family Mass & Breakfast: Lucia Paul

All is going well with the planning for this event. The fall dates are October 20th & 21st. More help is needed for the Mother/Daughter morning on October 20th. If you could help out that day, it would be appreciated. Also, overflow seating was needed in the church dining room last year due to the large attendance. This is once again being planned for this year.

Sign up sheets will go home in backpack mail this Friday and again in two weeks. If you know of a new family to our school, please make sure that they know about this event and what a nice tradition it is at OLG.

New aprons have arrived for volunteers to wear and new coffee carafes have also been purchased.

Community Service: Karen Doll (via email)

Event: Saturday, October 24th, 9am-1pm (sign up in shifts of 9-10:30am or 11-12:30pm).

We recently met with our committee and have the following stations in place:

- Coat drive for STEP in St. Louis Park
- Bridging truck
- Memorial Blood center truck for blood donations
- Making rosaries for St. Therese
- Assembling hygiene kits for Sharing and Caring hands and two other shelters
- Assembling birthday bag kits for Southside Center and a few others
- Making candy bags for Meals on Wheels
- Art station for placemats and cards for Making a Child Smile organization for kids with terminal illness
- Possibly Cheerful Givers birthday bags too
- Possibly raking/yard work on the OLG campus

Additional info:

- We have food donations established through the church– coffee, juice, cookies, etc.
- We are having an educational component to this event so the volunteers can learn a little bit about each organization/group of people they are serving.
- We are marketing through the Church bulletin, sending out fliers, marketing through Faith Formation programs, RCIA and through the school.
- KTIS hopes to recognize the event in some way.

We are hoping for LOTS of participation. As usual, additional ideas are welcome.

New Family Night: Lori Wagener

Lori reported that New Family night was a big success. She thanked all the volunteers for helping out that night. She got lots of good feedback from the new families on how much they appreciated the extra attention they got that night. If anyone has information that they feel new families need to know, give it to Lori. She has their contact information and can email them. It was also suggested that the mentors that were assigned to each new family could contact them again to see if they have any questions now that school has started. Lori will email the mentors about doing this.

Lori and Liz are also planning a coffee sometime in October for all new families. More information will be coming about this soon.

A Frequently Asked Questions booklet for Middle School is currently being worked on. The booklet for K-5 is done.

Dr. Kahn: Mia for Katie McElroy

Handouts with the dates and times of Dr. Kahn's talks for this school year were passed out. His first talk will be on Tuesday, October 6th from 8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. The title of this talk is "Parenting Strategies and Child Temperaments".

Used Uniforms: Steph Sislo

All plaid jumpers and skirts are currently on back order at Educational Outfitters. If you would like to buy a used uniform or have a plaid jumper or skirt to donate, you can do so in the school office.

PCN: Amy Pumarlo

The first PCN speaker will be Nathan Dungan, founder and president of Share Save Spend. He will be speaking on October 12th from 7-9 p.m. at South View, and his talk is entitled "Families, Money and Habits—Navigating the New Normal".

Amy also reminded us of the talk by Joe Califano on Monday Sept. 21st from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Edina Performing Arts Center. He will be speaking on how to raise a drug free kid.

Hospitality: Ann Olson

Ann said her committee will have a treat table set up at PIE Night. She asked that we please welcome any new families that we happen to see around the table.

Announcements:

Mia passed around the Adult Faith Formation brochures that are available in the parish commons. Many good speakers have been scheduled this year and she encouraged all to take advantage of them.

The 8th grade family kick ball game to start off the school year has become a fun tradition. Liz Neuberger and Betsy Violante were thanked for organizing this year's event. It is a fun time for families of the 8th graders and staff to get together.

The new method of handling the carpool line is going well. The students are much more organized and the line is moving a lot quicker. Mrs. Trenary reported that most days they have been done by 3:25 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Gathje

Next Meeting
Tuesday, October 13, 2009
6:30 p.m. – School Library