

Our Lady of Grace Catholic School
Parent School Organization
Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2009
9:30 a.m. – School Library

Board Members Present: Mia Liebl, Patty Boo-Pryor, Sheila Folkestad, Jeanne Gathje, Sabine Shea, Kathleen Johnson, Lori Wagener, Diane Mulligan, Stevie Sislo, Ann Olson, Debbie Harper, Sheila Letscher, Elizabeth Gorman, Amy Garrity, Linda Doughty, Katie McElroy, Amy Clancy, Maureen Trenary

Mia Liebl called the meeting to order. Patty Boo-Pryor led us in an opening prayer that was sent in by Amy Clancy.

Secretary's Report: Jeanne Gathje

There were a few corrections to the Draft of the PSO meeting minutes for the October 13th meeting. It was noticed that the word "Catholic" was not written as part of the name of our school at the top of the minutes. This correction was made and the school name is now properly written as "Our Lady of Grace Catholic School". The name of the former OLG student who donated books to our school library was changed to correctly read Mary Dubbs. One other grammatical correction was made. With these corrections, the minutes for the October 15th, 2009 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Sheila Folkestad

Sheila had copies of the PSO Budget and the Cash Position Statement as of October 31, 2009 for all to see. Marathon revenues are at \$92,367. About \$4,000 in corporate matching money is still expected to come in. Expenses for the marathon were about \$1,200. This gives us a net profit from this year's marathon of about \$95,000. From that money, Sheila has written checks for \$23,000 for the School Operating Fund and \$42,800 for Teacher Aides.

Gift wrap currently shows a gross amount of just over \$13,000. Since we owe half of that in expenses, we expect to make about \$6,500 on the Gift Wrap fund raiser this year.

Junior Great Books currently shows just over \$1,000 as a credit on the expense side of the Budget. This is listed there because Junior Great Books is not really a fund generating activity. It is supposed to be more of a break-even venture. Since we didn't have to replace any books this year, we currently have a credit shown.

Sheila apologized to anyone who had submitted expenses for reimbursement by placing them in the box in the Resource Room. Sheila was not aware that there was a box for her in that room. Thus, some of them have been sitting there awhile. She will take care of getting those reimbursement checks out to the individuals that submitted them. In the future, please submit all items for Sheila to her mailbox in the school office. She has removed the box in the Resource Room.

A motion was made to approve the 2009-2010 PSO Budget. It was seconded and approved by those present at the meeting.

Principal's Report: Maureen Trenary

Mrs. Trenary reported that she received many positive comments regarding the celebration of the school's 60th Anniversary at the 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. masses on November 1st. Bishop Piche celebrated both masses and many school students and alumni took part. People also appreciated the hospitality that took place before and after the masses. Mrs. Trenary thanked Angela Graf for all of her hard work on the celebration.

Mrs. Trenary passed around the Blue Ribbon Award plaque that she and Mrs. Nikrad received when they were in Washington DC. It will be hung up in the hallway for all to see. She also brought the new Blue Ribbon Award Flag that was given to them. That will also be framed and put on display.

Laura Gierstsen (PSO Photography Coordinator) has begun chronicling the year's events on the bulletin board near the school office. She will put photos on display of recent events for all to see. After they are taken down, she will put them in a book with events for that school year. The plan is to have one photo book and CD for each school year. Books have been ordered for the next ten years.

The Veteran's Day program was held on Monday, November 9th. The program went well and was appreciated by all in attendance. Mrs. Trenary brought along a thank you note that she had already received from one of the veterans that was there. The band and choir performed very well. Next year, the program will probably start a half hour earlier to allow more time for hospitality when it is over. Thank you to the PSO Hospitality Committee for providing treats for those in attendance.

Fr. Bob will have knee replacement surgery on Monday, November 16th. He will be out for about one month recuperating. Please keep him in your prayers.

Kindergarten Open House for the 2010-2011 school year will take place on Thursday, November 19th. About 120 letters were sent out to families that have potential students. Over 40 children in next year's potential kindergarten class currently have a sibling attending OLG. We are hoping with those numbers, that we will get three full kindergarten classes for next school year.

Twenty-five donated digital cameras have arrived. An anonymous family donated over \$4,000 to purchase these cameras. Each grade level (9) will be given a camera to use. One will be designated for use on the yearbook. The other 15 will be available for use by classrooms on projects.

Finally, Mrs. Trenary asked Elizabeth Gorman to talk about an initiative she has looked into to make our school more "green". Elizabeth reported that all Edina Public schools

currently use an organics recycling program in their lunchrooms. Rather than throwing away leftover food, which can be composted, it is separated out from the regular trash and sent to an organic recycler. This has greatly reduced the amount of trash these schools are producing and it has raised an awareness of the amount of food that is wasted each day. Some OLG parents plan to visit Highland school in Edina to look at how they operate this program. We would need a grant of some kind to get the program started at OLG. If we do try to implement it, it probably wouldn't be until next school year.

Committee Reports:

Family Mass & Breakfast: Mia Liebl for Angela Graf and Lucia Paul

It was another very successful event. About 450 Mothers/Daughters were served on Tuesday. About 360 Father/Sons were served on Wednesday. A profit of about \$700 was made largely due to the generosity of the dads in the donation basket on the Father/Son day. Also, they had very little waste due to ordering less this year, so expenses were down.

Community Service: Mia Liebl for Karen Doll

Roughly 200 people came on the day of the event (October 24). The day flowed very smoothly due to great committee help ahead of time. The following items were produced:

- 100 Birthday Bags for Southside Family Nurturing Center, St. Louis Park Emergency Program
- 500 Hygiene Kits and Handwritten Notes for Sharing & Caring Hands, Southside Family Nurturing Center, STEP
- 400 Tray Favor Candy Bags and Handwritten notes for Meals on Wheels
- 31 Fleece Blankets for St. Stephen's, Sharing & Caring Hands, Southside Family Nurturing Center
- 150 Rosaries for St. Therese Nursing Home, Sharing & Caring Hands
- 1.5+ Truckloads of household items for Bridging Inc.
- Lots of colored pictures for children's hospitals and nursing homes
- Piles of winter coats for St. Stephen's

Health Liason: Mia Liebl for Gina Peschel

Vision and Hearing Screening were conducted last week.

Emergency Phone Tree: Mia Liebl for Tobi Duffy

Tobi is working on getting things set up for a test run in November.

Hospitality: Ann Olson

Hospitality at the Veteran's Day program went well. The next event requiring Hospitality will be the Kindergarten Open House on Thursday, November 19th. There is a morning session at 8:45 a.m. and an evening session at 7:00 p.m. The committee could use a few more volunteers at each session just to greet people and welcome them to OLG. If you are interested in helping with either of these sessions, please contact Ann or just show up and the committee will tell you what to do.

Service Committee: Diane Mulligan

Letters went home with students last week detailing the program and asking for donations. As in the past, each student is asked to donate one item and \$1. The dollar is used to cover the cost of the turkey and the container. There was some discussion about changing the type of containers we use to be more in line with the others that Catholic Charities receives. The baskets will be delivered by the Student Council and parent helpers on Friday, November 20th.

The Wish Lists have not been received yet for the Reuben Lindh Christmas project. If the lists are received in time, Diane and Krista are hoping to get them out to the classrooms before Christmas break. They are hoping to have all donations in and the project wrapped up by Dec. 11th.

Book Fair: Amy Garrity

The teachers have all submitted their book wish lists. Amy and Jennifer have that all set to go for Book Fair Day, which is Thursday, Dec. 3rd. As in the past, the choir will sing, Santa will come and teachers will read. If you can't attend the fair at Barnes & Noble that day, you can call or email in your order. Friends and family can also shop at other Barnes & Noble stores for OLG that day as long as they do it Dec. 3rd and tell them that it is for OLG. All sales at the coffee shop can also be part of the OLG fundraiser as long as you tell them that day. Items from the Cheesecake Factory will also be available for order or purchase.

Santa's Secret Shop: Mia Liebl for Jane Pirtle & Patty Knopick

Sharing & Caring Hands has been picked as the charity that will receive most of the proceeds from our sale this year.

Snowbusters: Mia Liebl for Jennifer Rowland & Rebecca Silvestri

Jennifer and Rebecca are talking with Hyland Ski Area about possibly moving the dates for Snowbusters to a little bit later in the season. This is to try to avoid some of the really cold temperatures we have had the last couple of years in January.

Announcements:

Sheila Letscher reported that there are 111 students participating in the Middle School Service Club this year. Over 500 volunteer hours have been provided through 12 events so far this year. That does not include the parent hours. All events start with a prayer and have been very well coordinated thanks to D'Anne Briggs. The next event the kids will participate in will be handing out flyers in neighborhoods to promote the OLG Christmas Tree Lot run by the OLG Men's Club.

There was a short discussion regarding a survey that was on the Edina Public Schools web site regarding school start times for next year. This affects OLG because we use the Public School buses. The survey is no longer available, but a few parents were able to voice their opinions and these will be taken into consideration by the Edina School Board.

Work has begun on the annual Men's Club Dinner Dance. This year's event will be held at the Westin Hotel near the Galleria. It is limited to 300 people, and they are hoping to sell out. If anyone would like to sponsor any part of this event, please contact Sheila Folkestad.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Gathje

Next Meeting
Tuesday, December 15, 2009
9:30 a.m. – School Library