PTO Meeting
Monday, March 9, 2009

Attendees: Valerie Garcia, Joe Ferrara, Ellen Hannah, Stephanie Hurd, Eileen Joransen, Mary Gately, Fran Goldman, Laurie Reggelbruge, Lizzy Bernt, Dave Fenimore, Maddy Mitchell, Mike Haas

Joe opened the meeting at 7:05pm, reviewed the agenda, and gave an opening prayer.

Valerie delivered the Grade School and ECC Reports. She thanked everyone for their hard work on the Auction this year. She gave a series of highlights for the various grades, including an upcoming 3rd Grade Field Trip, the 4th Grade's Tasty Literature event, the Science Fair, and the Seussical. Valerie highlighted some ECC activities, including plans for Earth Day and the Good Deed a Day for Lent. She also talked briefly about the school's cell phone policy and the upcoming seminar for parents on Facebook that Chris Hitzelberger will present.

Eileen, Mike, and Maddy talked about Auction lessons learned (Jennifer D. was not able to make it). Most of the issues this year centered around check-in and check-out and problems with the auction software and database. One recommendation was that we need to do a better job of institutionalizing memory so we don't have to reinvent processes from scratch each year with new volunteers. For example, perhaps the school finance manager could be a resource from year to year to support the Auction's financial aspects. Joe will send out an email to some of the key players, including the Payne's, who have volunteered to run the Auction next year - the purpose of the email will be to arrange a meeting to discuss lessons learned and put some actions in place for next year.

Joe discussed the playground. Good progress has been made, including a $20k investment fund and a successful Planning Day. Joe thanked Valarie Warburton, Ellen Hannah, and Stephanie Hurd for their leadership on this issue. Now is the time to develop additional proposals so that the PTO can make recommendations to the Principal and Pastor on how to proceed. Joe will send out an email to the community giving everyone an update.

Laurie R. discussed the proposal to hold a Yard Sale on May 9 along with the Outdoor Amusements Day. The idea came from the Student Council. The plan is, tentatively, for the 7th and 8th grades to manage this event. The PTO approved the proposal.

Maddy presented budget status. The Festival and Auction both did very well, despite the economic downturn. But, our fundraising totals are lower than last year. This is due in part to the economic downturn and to the fact that last year was an extraordinarily good year. Passive fundraising continues to be a good

source of revenue, as does the Gift Wrap Sale.

Mary presented the Car Raffle status for Anne Hoffman. Pre-purchased and after-mass sales are going well. Anne will need additional volunteer help.

Joe gave an update on PTO succession planning. Ana Beck has done an excellent job of recruiting for many key positions next year. With regard to the PTO Board, Joe has received a few indications of interest. Joe will send an email to the Board asking for confirmation from each member as to whether they intend to stay in their position or not.

Joe adjourned the meeting at 8:15pm.