

PTO Meeting
October 5, 2009
7:00pm
Holy Trinity Room

Present at the meeting: Sandy Taylor, Ann Bremner, Nels Randolph Benson, Michael Planey, Tina Corea, Tamara deDios, Maddy Mitchell, Jean Hersey, Michele Fenimore, Valarie Warburton, Michelle Byrom, Michael Haas, Eileen Shea Joransen, Mary Gately, Missy Wojciak, Myleen Lankford, Lizzie Bernt, Kelly Brinley, Valerie Garcia, and Joe Ferrara

Welcome by Joe Ferrara

Opening Prayer by Valerie Garcia

Principals Report – Presented by Valerie Garcia

- Track meet held on Saturday went very well. Many thanks to the Payne family for coaching the track team.
- Red day (aka Rock the Red Day) was today and a picture of everyone in their red was taken out in the parking lot to be submitted to the Washington capitals for a chance at a \$500
- The Blessing of the Pets was also today. Father Workman blessed all the pets after a song was sung by the entire school to say goodbye
- Book Fair is going well and will end on Thursday, October 8.
- The first quarter closes on October 30
- A tentative test of the emergency phone system will take place on Thursday, October 8 depending on the principal's schedule
- The middle school has begun an initiative to look outside of themselves and help others. They are collecting diapers to be donated to a women's shelter, books to be donated to a library in New Orleans destroyed by the hurricane and food for Christ House

ECC Report – Presented by Kelly Brinley

- Pumpkin Patch will be held on Friday, October 30
- The ECC will be closed on November 20 to attend a preschool convention in DC
- They will be doing bag lunches for thanksgiving to benefit Christ House on November 17

Diocesan Update – Presented by Mary Gately

- The meeting was held on September 19, 2009

- The superintendent made a point to let Mary know how impressed he was that Mrs. Garcia sent flowers to the other schools in the diocese that received the blue ribbon award along with Blessed Sacrament (Corpus Christi, St. Mary's, St. Agnes and All Saints)
- A decision was made not to shut down schools in the event of students at schools getting swine flu and they may look into getting shots in the schools
- A push was made to get more of the PTOs in the Diocese involved in stuff getting done that affects Parochial schools on the state level Richmond and on the federal level in DC
- Enrollment management was also discussed. Diocesan schools have lost 17,000 students over the past three years. However, last year only 300 students were lost, mostly from one school in a rural area. Schools need to work to limit tuition increases so that more students are not lost. Also, the importance of how the schools present themselves during initial phone calls was also discussed.

Update on Fall Festival- Presented by Joe Ferrara for Kim Soutuyo

- The Fall Festival will take place on Saturday, October 24
- A flyer will go out in the Thursday folder asking for volunteers
- A chair is needed for the clean-up committee
- Chairs are busy working within their own committees

Playground Update – Presented by Michael Planey and Joe Ferrara

- Father Cregan wants to present the information about the playground to the church finance council to help drum up support for our new playground
- Father presented the PTO with a copy of the playground safety guide that was created by the Diocese
- We need to find out if we need to go to the diocese to get permission to build the new playground because of a possible dollars spent threshold. That is still being investigated
- Father also encouraged us to re-engage with the diocesan risk management and construction offices. We did already do this but very early on in the process. It is now time to have them come back now that we have pictures and a better idea of what we want
- We want to have all of the above information ready to present to the church finance council which meets on October 26 and be prepared with any questions that finance council may ask.
- Our base price for the playground based on the pictures created by Learning Structures is \$50,000 (50% towards design fees and 50% towards supplies). This does not include labor, heavy equipment

- rentals that may be needed, ground re-surfacing, removal of the old mulch and permits
- For the ground surfacing, we are looking at \$25,000 rubber mulch which includes delivery and the length of time it will last is still not certain
 - Regular shredded mulch will cost \$7,500 delivered but not installed. This would be engineered wood fiber. It will breakdown over 2-3 years (can attract termites and mold)
 - A poured rubber surface would cost us at least \$70,000 just for the play area
 - So, at a minimum, we are looking at \$10,000 for ground surfacing
 - Learning Structures recommends buying landing mats for the slide, swing and climbing area which will cost \$250 each for a total of at least \$1000 (we will probably need 4-6 mats)
 - We will also need to rent dumpsters for the old mulch which will cost \$650 each and we will probably need 3-5 dumpsters. There are two other ways we can possibly deal with mulch situation
 - Have a free mulch day and have people in the community come and pick up the mulch
 - Have families come and haul the mulch to the city which can then be burned for fuel
 - We are looking to see if any other schools are planning on re-doing their playgrounds so we can possibly combine purchasing power
 - We have a parent in our school that may be able to get the big bobcat trucks for us so we would just need the volunteers and that would save a lot of money in rental costs
 - We also need to look into doing something about the ECC playground that is sinking due to the mulch situation on their playground
 - Our goal would be (assuming we have the money, time and volunteers) to be late summer 2010
 - We are looking at a budget of between \$60,000-\$65,000
 - We currently have \$21,000 (we had \$24,000 put have spent some in the initial phases of the playground process)
 - We are hoping to find a grant writer to go out and find money that may be out there that we can put towards the playground
 - We are also hoping to emphasize to the church and the community that this is a playground for everyone to enjoy

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm by Joe Ferrara. Next meeting will be held on Monday, November 2, 2009 in the Library