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St. Gabriel Consolidated School PTO Meeting Minutes January 13, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Katrina H., PTO president at 7:05 pm.

Call to order/welcome – Katrina H.

- Opening prayer was led by Mrs. S. – We gather in Lord's name. The Lord called each of us to serve him. Let us follow where he leads us, give us hope to trust in you, and give us love to serve you and each other.

Principal's report – Mr. E.

- SGCS is in the middle of the accreditation process. We are meeting in small groups and large groups. We are taking surveys, writing, rewriting. We are at a point where we will be determining goals for curriculum for next 6 years. In 2011, a team from outside will be coming in to verify the results we have found.
- Grandparent's day has been changed to March 25.
- March 10 – Science Night for the primary grades
- We are looking for a volunteer for the race for education held at the end of April. This event raises \$25,000 every year. There is a fair amount of work beforehand.
- Registration begins next week. SGCS representatives will be at St. Max this Sunday and at St. John Evangelist church on January 30 and 31. There will be signs and displays at the other 3 parishes. Open house will be a little different this year: it will be starting at 6:30 instead of 7:00 to allow new families to come in and be able to talk to the teachers a little better.
- High School placement tests: Of 38 students, 12 of them scored 98 or above. Our kids typically do well on these placement tests. Thank you to the teachers and parents for their work in preparing the students.
- Mr. B. and his wife will be performing at Music Hall this Friday and Saturday evening, demonstrating some of the instruments we use.
- Public health Service has notified us of a 2nd inoculation for kids under age of 9. It will take place on Sat, Jan 23rd at 1:30 at Winton Woods Middle School on Ferrugat Rd. The Public Health Service sent a form last week with no instructions and no roster as of yet for 76 that got the 1st inoculation.

Opening Remarks – Katrina H.

- There is a door prize for this evening. As you walked in, there was a question to answer. If you know the answer, put your name in for the drawing. At the end of the evening, we will draw a name out for the door prize.

Treasurer's Report: Martha D.

- Thank you to everybody that contributed to candy sale. It was a positive success for the PTO. We made a little bit above the projected 23,000. We are expecting another 700. We should have a \$10,000 profit.

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- Scrip – we are doing well with that. It is a big contributor to the PTO. We have a \$2000 net profit through Dec 31. There will be another \$1500 coming in soon.
- We are on track with what we projected and believe we are in good shape.
- Martha asked for any questions. No questions were asked.
- Martha requested and received from Annette B. a motion to approve the budget. The motion was seconded by Jamie W.

Additional comments: Katrina H.

- The candy sale was great – more children participated than before. We didn't sell as many boxes as before, but we met our goal for more kid's participation. We will be tweaking the candy sale to make it even better for next year.

Secretary's Report – Paula B.

- Meeting minutes and announcements can be found on our web site.
- Paula requested and received from Laura E. a motion to waive the reading of the September meeting's minutes. The motion was seconded by Scott S..

Special Presentation

- Jack H. made a pencil sketch of St. Gabriel School. This was framed and presented to Mr. E. by his granddaughters, Julie and Cali H.
- Mr. E. thanked Jack and commented how nice it was. The note cards that came as a result of this drawing are a great idea and something we're thankful for.

Guest Speaker: Officer B. from the Springdale Police Department

- Officer B. began with a story about growing up. He and a brother decided to take a trip to Lake Cumberland. When they arrived, there was no lodging. So, they decided to go to Washington D.C. (with no map). They made it to Washington D.C. (with car trouble to boot). They arrived back home 4 days later and nobody knew they were gone. This can happen today without the kids even leaving home. It's called the Internet, where kids can communicate with anybody at any time. This is a concern for parents: where the kids are, who they are talking to and if they are making arrangements to meet friends?
- Facebook: There are different privacy settings for face book. Did anybody read the privacy settings when setting up their accounts? It is 5 pages long and includes 3 different settings. If you don't choose a setting, you are assigned the default setting, which means that anybody can see your page, even if they are not on Facebook.
- Officer B. also talked about the dangers of the chat room: Predators are very friendly in chat rooms. He gave an example of what could happen: Your son wants a new video game. You say no. He is all bummed out and so goes into a chat room to vent. He talks about how his parents won't buy him the game he wants. A predator sees this and tells the kid that he can get the

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game for him; all he needs is some cash. If the kid can get the mom's credit card and driver's license, the predator can buy the game. The predator uses the information to buy all kinds of things, even cars. The kid never sees the game as promised. Parents don't know anything about this until the next statement arrives and sometimes, not even then. The predator can have the bill sent somewhere else. Police are in the chat rooms watching what is being said.

- He also discussed the responsibility of parents. As a parent, you have a responsibility to watch out for your kids. Kids want to be somebody and get recognized. Predators know this and look for this. Unfortunately, kids don't have the knowledge about all the dangers.
 - Computer use: It is the parent's responsibility to set up rules for computer use. You should know what the kids are seeing. Let them use your email. Check cookies, history files. Let them know if there are sites on the Internet where you don't want them to go. You can get parental controls for the computer. If you don't know what kind to get, call the school and ask what they use. They are a good guide for what your computer should have.
 - Cell phone. If your kids have cell phones, it should have limits on it, like only being able to dial 911. Another thing to look out with cell phones is that with some phones, the kids can go on the Internet. They can go to a website on the phone, if you don't let them on this website at home. Most kids don't need cell phones. If you need to get in touch with your child, call the school, call a friend's house. You have to be the boss and set limits.
- Officer B. passed out information, including a pamphlet entitled 'Internet Safety a Guide for Parents and children' that he made up. There are websites on back where he got some of this information.
- Officer B. asked for any questions or comments. There was some further discussion about cell phone. Someone mentioned that a lot of cell phone companies are dropping parental controls. Another comment was made that some phones now have a GPS tracking device and lock out function, where you can shut off phone. As a response, Officer B. said that there are controls out there, parents need to find them.
- Officer B. also talked briefly about wireless networks. If parents have wireless networks at home, they should make sure they are secure. There are examples of cars sitting in the street near houses with wireless networks getting onto that house's network from their car.
- A comment was made to also be aware of on-line bullying in 6th, 7th and 8th grade.

Cougars Night Out – Joan V. and Lynda G.

- There was a question to answer at the door to put your name in to win the door prize: What is 2 months from tonight. The answer was Cougar's Night Out. Regina S.'s name was drawn from all the names entered for the door prize. She won a St. Gabriel vest.
- Joan and Lynda reported a lot of progress being made. They turned it over to the heads of subcommittees to give a brief overview of where they were and what their subcommittee needed. There are still a lot of things needed.

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- Ø Decoration/setup – Lynda G. Lynda reported that this committee is in the process of working on table decorations. These table decorations will be raffled off at the end of the evening. They're going without a theme to keep cost down. This committee needs help the day before and day of the event to get everything set up. Since it's a new venue, they don't know exactly how everything's going to lay out. Might have to move and remove to get things set up. For the last CNO, it took a total of 10-15 people. This is something that you don't have to give a lot of time to if you can't. If you can only give 2 hours, that's great. They need bodies to help.
- Ø Silent Auction Committee – Tara M. Tara reported that her committee has contacted everyone from last year. Some of the things they have already are: 2 condos, tickets to a Taylor Swift concert, signed sports memorabilia. This committee needs lots of help obtaining smaller items like gift certificates to restaurants. Think about things you purchase during the year and for kids. Focus on things that people will be purchasing normally. If you have connections to businesses, please let the committee know. They can give you material to contact the people or the committee can make the contact. Businesses are willing to donate, but usually in small increments. A flyer was passed out during the meeting concerning making donations to CNO. The committee has a listing of donor names from previous years and adds names to this as more donate. If you know of someone that might donate, you can print out a letter from the website, but just let Tara know, so that there aren't duplications. The Committee has already contacted a lot of local businesses in Glendale and West Chester. CNO will have a live auction again, which Rich Harknett will be calling.
- Ø Food – Jen D., Tori A.. Martinos on Vine will be catering CNO. There will be a dessert contest like at last year's social. This committee needs people to participate in the dessert contest.
- Ø Printing and signs – Rebecca L. Currently, Rebecca has one other person working with her on this committee. There won't be a lot going on until closer to the CNO date, but they will need help then. A lot of the work is organizational and can be done from home. They are currently taking information from donors.
- Ø Invitations/Marketing – Stacy F. Stacy reported that invitations will be going out in next 10 days. This committee still needs to finalize some of the auction information. Cougars Night Out has its own website. There will be an opportunity to send money in an envelope as a donation, if you aren't able to attend. Stacy will need help with manual stuffing. She will also need help the night of the event to man the table. Lots of people have offered to help.
- Ø Check Out/Data Collection – Annette B. Joe A. is also working closely with Annette on this committee. Annette is taking care of putting in donations, invites, assigning bid numbers, sending thank you letter to donors. She needs 4-5 more people, especially the night of event. It would help if they could get volunteers prior to the night of the event so the volunteers can get used to what they need to do. The more people helping out,

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the more all the volunteers can enjoy the event. You don't have to have a lot of computer experience to help.

- Ø Entertainment – Tiffany G. Tiffany reported on some of the games already planned for the event: Electronic basketball pop-a-shot, putt-putt golf, plinko game, and left-right-center. The basketball game was purchased and will be auctioned off at the end of the evening. They are also looking into a DJ in a box.
- Ø Class Baskets - Pat K. Every grade has identified a theme. They still need baskets from local high schools. Some of these brought in the most money last time. They will also need help decorating the baskets the week before the event. Anyone with artistic ability would be greatly appreciated.
- Ø Beverage/Bar – This committee is run by Erin F. and Bruce B., who were not able to attend the PTO meeting. Lynda gave an update instead. So far, Erin and Bruce have 15 cases of beer donated. They are currently working on wine distributor contacts, as well as a specialty drink. This specialty drink will come in a commemorative glass, which will be available for purchase the night of CNO. You will be able to buy the glass and get the specialty drink with it. There will not be a full bar with mixed drinks because of the cost. However, there will be different ranges of wine...from boxed wine to high end. This committee needs help the night of the event in the form of bartenders. The working shifts will be 1 ½ hours long. They plan on having 3 bars open at the beginning of the evening. Later on in the evening, they will close one bar, so that there will be 2 bars open.

OLD BUSINESS - NONE

NEW BUSINESS

- Catholic Schools Week (CSW)– John T.
 - Ø CSW will be held this year from Jan 31 – Feb 4. This committee doesn't need help with anything at the present time.
 - Ø Mary Lou Smith will have service projects for the various grades.
 - Ø The all school mass will be Feb 4 at St. Max. The rental of buses is a big expense.
 - Ø We will be giving a memento to the priest saying the mass, which will be Father McCarthy this year.
 - Ø There will be daily prayers during the week
 - Ø Kris Koch is in charge of the open house part of CSW. There was a flyer in the last Thursday envelope requesting volunteers to help with the open house.
 - Ø Gifts are given to the crossing guard, parish staff of the 5 parishes, teachers and students. This year the students will be receiving a t-shirt.
 - Ø The Mayor of Glendale has proclaimed this week as St. Gabriel school week in Glendale.
 - Ø There will be a school assembly on February 1.
 - Ø Feb 3 there will be all schools mass at the cathedral. A couple of our staff members will be attending

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Ø John asked for questions and none were asked.

Adelaide L.– Kudos.

- Thanks for everyone that is here because it looks like everyone here tonight is involved in the school. We want to thank Julie A. for teacher luncheons, Sheri K. for her work on the 8th grade plays, and Lynda and Joan for incredible work on CNO so far. We also want to thank Lori M. for the great enrichment programs, one of which the kids just had this week....Frederick Douglas. John and Monica T. are doing great work with Catholic Schools Week. And a big thank you to the candy sale team, Jen D., Tori A. and Karen S. who did a great job with the candy sale. This fundraiser brings in a lot of money for the PTO. Thanks also to the people who take care of the yearlong fundraisers: Melinda Y. (SCRIP), Cindy L.(Market Day), Teri D.(Boxtops for Education), Joanne G.(Campbell's Labels), Nancy S.(Tyson Chicken Labels), and Melony F.(Zone Books).
- One of the things that are amazing is the number of parents and families volunteering without any kind of requirement to do so. There are currently over 100 different families involved in many ways.

Split the pot – The winning ticket was held by Joe A. He will receive \$30.00. The remaining \$30.00 and the cougar went to Mrs. K.'s class.

Motion to adjourn - Jamie W. made the motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by: Paula B., PTO Secretary