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St. Gabriel Consolidated School PTO Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2010

Call to order/welcome – Adelaide L.

- The meeting was called to order by Adelaide L., PTO president at 7:05 pm. Attendance was very good.
- Opening prayer was led by Mrs. S. – there is a poster in the hallway upstairs that displays our Catholic identity theme for the month – Let your light shine. This is for everyone-student, PTO board, teacher, etc. In conjunction with this, the opening prayer was from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 5.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Paula B.

- Discussed the status of new email addresses being added to the weekly PTO email.
- Motion was made to waive the reading of the minutes from the last PTO meeting. The motion was made by Julie A. and seconded by Kris K.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Mr. E.

Blue Ribbon School

- Thank you to Mrs. S. who did all of the grunt work and without whom we wouldn't have received this award.
- The U.S. Board of Education selects 50 private schools from across the country for this award. There are 132,000 schools in the country. Approximately 300 schools were awarded Blue Ribbons, including 50 private schools. The 50 private schools were selected from 136 private schools who had applied.
- There will be celebrations throughout the year, hopefully 1 activity for kids a month. A committee might be developed to plan these celebrations
- Mrs. H. and Mr. E. will be going to Washington D.C. in November to accept the award.
- We are already getting positive results. A father of a 3 year old walked into the school to take a tour because he saw that we were a blue ribbon school.

Teachers

- All teachers were introduced
- The new faculty include: Mrs. W., Kindergarten; Mrs. B., 6th grade, Mrs. E., 6th grade; Mrs. E., 8th grade.
- Mrs. Z. has gotten married and now is Mrs. L.
- We have a new Psychologist – Mary Ann R.
- Chris P. is subbing for Kristin W. who is out on maternity leave.

Accreditation Process

- In addition to the blue ribbon, we are going through an accreditation process. We are looking for things to improve on. The Blue Ribbon was not an ending, but a springboard for many things we want to do. We want to establish new goals
- There was an internal review (held by the archdiocese) that was held last Thursday and lasted about 3 hours.
- We are expecting an external visit on December 2nd or 3rd. This will comprise of a visit from a team of 3 administrators from catholic schools in the Cincinnati archdiocese and a chairperson from another

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archdiocese. They will visit classrooms, look at our goals, etc. This team will draw up a final report which will determine if we will receive accreditation for a specified number of years.

Enrollment

- Our enrollment stands at 397, which is good number. This is an increase of 11 from the ending of last year.
- There is still room in some classes.

PTO Annual Donation to school funded

- New music equipment, which we will see at different times though out the school year such as Christmas concerts and Grandparent's day.
- Replace window blinds which were very old and expensive to fix. We've replaced 2/3rd of these with the PTO donation at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.
- Purchased a document camera that works off of smart boards and plan to purchase more technological items throughout the school year.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Martha D.

- This is a non CNO year, so we will be watching everything closely. We had a successful CNO last year, but we gave a big chunk of that money back to the school. There will be a smaller amount going back to the school at the end of this year because we don't have a lot of income coming in.
- Our only major fundraiser for the school year is the candy sale. The candy sale funds any expense items at bottom of sheet (for example, teacher supplies).
- 2010-2011 PTO budget vote: Jamie W. made a motion to approve and Katrina H. seconded the motion

SGCS 21: FEASABILTIY STUDY – Aimee D., Mark G., Ann E., Julie A..

- Mark G. reviewed what the **St. Gabriel Advisory commission** is, who is driving the Feasibility study. The St. Gabriel Advisory commission is comprised of 3 pastors, Mr. E., the business manager Mr. G., Mrs. Mary Lou Bay-S. and lay people from each parish. The lay people include Bryan R. and Mark G. from St. Gabriel; Julie A., Rich H. and Phuc B. from St. Max, Aimee D. and Ann E. from St. John. The Advisory commission discusses things like curriculum and tuition. They have no decision making authority.
- Two years ago, as the accreditation study was beginning, the commission decided to put together a survey to try to find out what we can do better as a school. Last year there were several surveys distributed to various persons. This produced a lot of data.
- After the data was collected and the money rose for a feasibility study, the commission met with the architects to understand what our options were. We met with them several times over the summer. They came back with all of the options. The commission then compiled a report which was presented to the pastors on Monday. This 125 page document looked at input from everybody.
- The next step is up to the pastors. The commission has requested to go ahead with a feasibility plan to see if we can raise the money for the renovations. The pastors will be meeting on October 14. We're really optimistic that they will say 'yes' and let us proceed with the financial feasibility study.
- The commission members opened the floor up for questioning:
 - John T. – what did the feasibility plan that the architects came back with entail? Is it a secret plan? Mark replied that we can't share the plans with the SGCS community until we get approval from the pastors. He did share that the architects looked at the building plans from 1926. They said that the classrooms are o.k. We just need more square footage for all the other things...like music and library sharing space. Mark also mentioned that the architects came back with a lot of different price ranges and designs.

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- Pat K. – had a question about the feedback from the archdiocese and Glendale. How have the meetings with these entities been?
Answer: the architectural firm, which we hired and **are** well known in the city, met with Glendale. They are requiring us to have a façade identical to what we have, which is what we want. We want the new part to look like it was built in 1926, which is when the original building was built. As far as the Archdiocese, this commission/plan came about in part from when Archbishop Schnurr was appointed Archbishop. We took cues from some of what he said. We were inspired from him. The meeting Mark G. had with the superintendent of the Archdiocesan Catholic schools was a favorable one. The Archdiocese likes the demographics of our school. Everything we've heard from the Archdiocese has been favorable.
- Tara M. – didn't have a questions, but wanted to commend the commission for looking at issues beyond just a new gym such as physical exercise space (in bad weather), safety issues in the party lot, lunch space. The committee should be commended for a job well done.
- Michelle K. – What is the timeframe for when we will see some action?
Answer: That's a good question. We don't know for sure. We know that it will be a 3 year capital campaign. The Archdiocese has been known to give bridge loans, but with the economy, we don't think they will co-sign on a bridge loan for more than 20%-30%.
- Other questions:
 - Who owns the land? Answer: the archdiocese owns every piece of land of every school and church in the Archdiocese. Father F. is the steward of the St. Gabriel land. St. Gabriel parish and St. Max chipped in money for the feasibility study that was done over the summer.
 - Is air conditioning part of the plan? Answer: yes. The thing about the plans that the architects gave us is that there are lots of options to do different phases at different times. Because of this, we will get to a point where we will want more input as to what should be done. The next step will be a 3 year capital campaign. To do this we need support from the pastors, support from the SGCS parents and support from the member church parishioners. If we can enough money even on the low end of the range, we will go ahead.
 - How would a non-parishioner know about the information that you are presenting?
Answer: we are hoping that the parents will be sharing the information. The information is also being shared through the PTO email, the SGCS website and Thursday envelope.

ACTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ADULT SOCIAL - Tara M. and Tiffany G.
 - Will be held on Thursday, October 21. The cost is \$21.00. Raffle tickets are included in the price. Vinoklet Winery has a vineyard you can walk through and a gazebo that overlooks a lake. There will be a bonfire if the weather is cool.
 - An evite was sent out to the whole school with Ann E.'s help.
 - Tara and Tiffany are currently looking for raffle prizes. The raffle prizes can be big or small.
 - The SGCS Social is a great way to socialize and get to know other parent. Encourage friends to respond.

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- The PTO is having early in the year so that parents can meet and socialize with other parents early in the school year instead of getting to know the parents when the school year is almost over.
- Registration form will be coming in the Thursday envelope tomorrow.
- CANDY SALE – Martha D. and Tori A.
 - The candy sale is going well. We've sold about 500 boxes. We appreciate everyone's support.
 - There are about 50 boxes left. These boxes are available to take home tonight for those interested.
 - A question was asked regarding showing up at locations to sell without having signed up for the specific time. Tori responded that Kroger gives specific times and those just showing up would be competing with students that signed up. We've also had complaints from Kroger about too many people at the door. If students are looking for places to just show up and sell, sports games are good for that....like kids soccer games. Pat K. also mentioned high school football games, but as long as the student doesn't go in and stays around the perimeter of the school. Another parent that works at a high school disagreed.
 - Another question/comment was made regarding the signups to sell candy at mass/retail locations. Mrs. B. wanted to know whose boxes of candy were being sold – the candy from the boxes that the student ordered or candy from the general school boxes. Tori responded that the when the students sell after mass or at retail locations, they bring their box(es) that they ordered and sell from that.

OLD BUSINESS – NONE

NEW BUSINESS

- Thank you to the 6th, 7th and 8th grade parents for providing snacks for this evening.
- Thank you to the 7th graders that are babysitting. Please thank them as we head out.
- The coveted cougar goes to Mrs. S.'s 3rd grade class for having the most parents in attendance.

SPLIT THE POT - Winning ticket was held by Marco B. He donated his \$40.50 winnings back to the school. Congratulations to him also for becoming a U.S. citizen this past week.

Closing prayer was held. Motion to adjourn was made by Jamie W. and seconded by Lori M..

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Paula B., PTO Secretary.