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St. Gabriel Consolidated School PTO Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Adelaide L., PTO President at 7:03 p.m.

Opening Prayer – Mrs. S.

- In light of the tragedy a few days ago (Tucson shooting), the opening prayer was a prayer for peace. We are called be peacemakers. The prayer began “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace”.

Principal’s Report – Mr. E.

- HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT TEST RESULTS: Thirty two 8th graders took the placement test. Eleven scored in the 90th percentile or above. We are in the process of getting letters from the High Schools to determine what money students will receive.
- ENROLLMENT: We currently have 394 students enrolled at St. Gabriel. We have been picking up students off and on. Five students have joined since Thanksgiving. For a while, we were getting 5 or 7 calls a day from families. Tours of the school have also increased. Word of mouth by the St. Gabriel family is still the best recruitment. Nine out of 10 families that contact us are referred by someone. We will be at hospitality Sunday at St. Max on January 16th, in St. Mary’s Hall at St. Gabriel Sunday, January 23rd and at St. John’s on January 29th and 30th.
- CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK: Open house will be held on Wednesday, February 2nd. New families are encouraged to arrive from 6:30-7:30. Open house is scheduled from 6:30-8:30. There will be a flyer about open house in an upcoming Thursday envelope. We are looking for volunteers to direct people that night. The all school mass will be at St. John’s this year on Thursday, February 3rd.
- ACCREDITATION PROCESS: Is still in progress. There was a committee here in December that has given us suggestions on a few revisions. We will be working on the paperwork and getting it in by March.
- FACILITIES STUDY: The bottom line is that the Pastors have been asked to put a hold on doing anything further with this study. The Superintendent of the Archdiocese Catholic Schools is coming up with a vision of the Archdiocesan schools for the future. He is currently in the process of hiring a company to help with this vision. The good news with this is that there is a hiatus on any school closings for at least a year. Another part of this is that 2 of the parishes that are part of our school still owe a lot of money for the churches that were built. The Pastors are reluctant to have us go begging for money to these parishioners. It will cost 3 million dollars to update the SGCS facility.
- BOOSTER GYM SPACE: There has been some criticism of the Boosters concerning changing of gym times at McGees. The Boosters have worked hard at finding gym space every year. In the past, practices have been held in schools and then would have to be cancelled for school functions. Last year, we were at Sports Plus and were taken for \$500.00. Last July, Mr. E. signed

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a contract with McGee's and then, right before Christmas, Mr. E. received a call from McGees that they were changing St. Gabriel's practice schedules. Mr. E. met with McGee's representatives and thought things would be straightened out, but it hasn't been yet. Bill Montour, Bill Schneider and Mr. E. are working hard to get this all straightened out. They are working with an attorney in the Archdiocese.

A Comment was made from Joan V. regarding the lack of communication from the Boosters regarding this subject: there was nothing in a Thursday envelope, PTO email or on the SGCS website explaining the gym situation. Mr. E. acknowledged this and mentioned that the Boosters would be meeting next week and he would try to work this out.

Treasurer's Report – Martha D.

- The PTO is doing better than expected. We had a 21% increase in revenue in the candy sale from last year. The profit for this year's candy sale was \$13,000 compared to \$9,500 last year.
- The other driver that is helping with our revenue is SCRIP. Our expenses are down because of the Kroger card. We are getting more money from people reloading. We've seen \$4200.00 in profit this year from the SCRIP program: \$2100 from gift certificates, \$2100 from reloading of the Kroger card.
- Expenses are moving along as expected. There were only a couple of unexpected expenses (like the Blue Ribbon).
- Motion to approve the budget was made by Laura E. and seconded by Lori W.

Secretary's Report – Paula B.

- Asked for a motion to waive the reading of the minutes. Motion was made by Pat K. and seconded by Laura E.

Committee Reports

1. St. Gabe's Gala (formerly known as CNO) – Joan V.

Cougar's Night Out is being renamed to St. Gabe's Gala for the 2011-2012 school year. Joan and Lynda, the chairpersons, have looked at the feedback from parents from last year for ways to make the Gala even better. They are interested in new ideas, thoughts for the Gala. Look for some information to be coming in an upcoming Thursday envelope, weekly PTO announcement, etc. Questions were then taken:

- a. Is there a date for the next Gala? Answer: No date has been set yet, but CNO was successful in March last year and so they would be looking at that same time frame.
- b. How much did we make from the CNO last year? Answer: we made a net profit of \$25,000.00 compared to \$15,000.00 with the previous CNO.

2. SCRIP – Adelaide L.

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- a. A new retailer, Target, has been added to the SCRIP program. If you've been purchasing Target gift cards using your Kroger card, you might want to continue since the PTO will only receive 2% back from Target SCRIP, compared to 4% when purchased with the Kroger card. Some families use the Kroger card to purchase gift cards to retailers that give less than back to the PTO than the Kroger card.
 - b. On-line purchasing will soon be available. There are only 17 retailers involved now, but it is expected to expand. Details about this new feature will be coming in a Thursday envelope.
3. EVERYBODY COUNTS – Scott S.

Scott and Debbie are working with the R.'s on this committee. They have completed the schedules for the week of the 14th and the teachers should be receiving these shortly. Scott and Debbie are just getting started on the schedules for the week of the 21st. There are a couple of grades that do not have speakers scheduled yet. They are working on this. They are still looking for volunteers, especially for the 7th graders, where they have no volunteers scheduled yet.

Old Business – Adelaide L.

- none

New business – Adelaide L.

- Rebecca L., because of family obligations, will be stepping down as vice-president in late April. She will still be working with the other PTO members on nominations for board positions for the 2011-2012 school year. As soon as replacement is found, everybody will be informed.
- Blue Ribbon ornaments are on sale tonight for \$4.00 each. They will also be on sale at the Open House, but afterwards will be put away. The Blue Ribbon committee members have done a great job. Members are: Kim K., Carol W., Stacy F., Rita A. and Jessica M.. If anyone has any suggestions concerning Blue Ribbon celebrations, please contact one of these committee members.

Split the pot – Mara D. had the winning ticket.

Cougar – Mrs. M.'s 2nd grade class and Mrs. S.'s 3rd grade class were tied for having the most parents in attendance.

Closing prayer – Adelaide L.

Motion to adjourn was made by Pat K. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Paula B., PTO Secretary