

St. Gabriel Consolidated School PTO

MEETING MINUTES

September 14, 2005

7:00 PM

1. SGCS PTO president Melinda Y. called to order the first SGCS PTO meeting of the '05-'06 school year at 7:05 p.m. in St. Mary's Hall.
 - General Announcements: Melinda reminded those in attendance that child care is available at this, and all, SGCS PTO meetings; encouraged attendees to shop for spirit wear, Zone books, scrip, Booster Buddy cards and license plate holders at tables set up throughout the room, and to sign up for PTO and receive a membership directory. She added the PTO membership would be required to vote, and a vote on the PTO budget was expected later in the meeting.
 - Opening Prayer was led by Diane B.
2. Diane B. presented, "A Parent's Response To Catholic Social Services," offering insight and collateral material on Catholic Social issues.
3. SGCS PTO secretary Patty K. asked, and received, a motion to waive the reading of the May 11, 2005 minutes.
 - Office Hours: Patty announced that PTO office hours are scheduled every Friday morning from 7:30 to 8:15. During that time, a PTO board member will be available outside of the cafeteria to answer questions, listen to comments, and take suggestions.
 - E-mail communications: In response to the PTO spring survey in which most respondents requested e-mail reminders of school events and important dates, Patty reported the PTO created and launched an email list server group for SGCS PTO. 136 families are currently active. Those who would like to join were encouraged to send email to the new SGCS PTO e-mail address, reminders@stgabepdo.org
4. SGCS Principal Mr. E presented the Principal's Report
 - Mr. E invited parents, coaches and volunteers who will be working with children to attend the Child Protection Workshop at SGCS September 29 at 7:00 p.m. in St. Mary's Hall. The workshop only will be held; fingerprinting is scheduled to be held at St. John's in West Chester or other parishes in the Archdiocese.
 - Mr. E announced that the school is sponsoring its second Race For Education, to be chaired again by Debbie F. Last year about \$30,000 was raised, some of which was used to offset rising tuition rates and some to refurbish the library.
 - The SGCS teacher and administration staff was introduced to the crowd, and welcomed to the new school year.
5. Active Committee Reports: the following active committees reported personally at the meeting. The remaining active committee reports can be found in the written announcements handed out at the meeting. (See addendum.)
 - Cougars Night Out: Chairman Karen Z. announced Cheryl S. is this year's co-chair, and will be next year's CNO chairperson. After its first two successively consecutive years, Karen expects this year's Mardi Gras-themed event to be better. After initial concern about the theme, given Katrina's devastation in New Orleans, Karen announced that the PTO board supported sticking with the theme, as it would

be done tastefully and be dedicated to the spirit of the region and include prayers and possibly first-person accounts from relatives of SGCS families affected by the destruction.

- Cougars Night Out Silent Auction--Nancy Y., silent auction chair, introduced herself and Michelle D. as Silent Auction chairs. She described the Silent Auction as the primary CNO fundraiser, taking in \$10,000 at last year's event. She asked for the support of SGCS families, including help soliciting auction items of any value. Nothing is a silly idea, she said; last year's auctions included \$5 Graeter's gift cards, Delta airline tickets, hotel stays, Dr. Phil tickets, restaurant certificates and jewelry.
 - Community Relations—Nancy Y, chairperson, introduced co-chair Laura H. and explained Community Relations is now part of the Marketing Committee, which is chaired by Aimee D. Nancy asked for support; namely, getting stories in the local papers. She enjoined parents and teachers to suggest story ideas, and let them know in advance of events that may interest the public. Nancy welcomes stories and photos after events take place, too, and reminded attendees that disposable cameras are available in the school office for parents and teachers to use on field trips. Describing this kind of publicity as invaluable and, at times, intangible, Nancy implored attendees to join in trying to get the word out about St. Gabriel.
 - Market Day: Janet B., a Market Day co-chair with Wendy W. and Mary B., described Market Day as a successful fundraiser that has been around for years. After describing how the program works, Janet reminded attendees that they can use more help packing and unpacking the food, and that the program cleared \$4,000 last year, all of which directly benefits SGCS students.
 - SCRIP: Ann A., chairman of the Scrip program, invited anyone with questions to see her personally. She also described a little-used Kroger card, which is used like a credit card, and brings in generous cash returns to SGCS. Additionally, Ann described similar programs by Kohl's and Wendy's. When questioned whether Costco offers such cards, Ann suggested finding out more at <http://www.glscrip.com>.
 - Cafeteria Volunteers--Melinda Y. introduced Laura H. as this year's cafeteria volunteer coordinator. Laura announced that she has completed the schedule for the rest of the school year and that the schedules are forthcoming.
 - M&M Sale--Melinda Y. also introduced committee co-chairs Amy Z. and Laura E. . Debbie T. was not present, but serves as the third M&M co-chair. Melinda said preliminary numbers indicated the sale would clear \$9,000 to \$10,000. She requested those who are finished selling to please get their money in now; certainly by Friday, September 16, the last day of the SGCS M&M sale.
6. Old Business - none
7. New Business
- Michelle introduced Larry W. as the new treasurer for 2005 – 2006. Larry explained that he had closely examined the proposed budget for this year for two weeks. He highlighted that the magazine sale line item changed because it is now online; the donation to schools line item is a significant factor in the budget. Larry also hoped to institute a wish list at school, to encourage more in-house projects and asked several times that attendees provide feedback to help better direct the budget.
 - Melinda passed out a sheet with last year's projected budget, last year's actual budget and this year's projected budget. She pointed out the budget, although not significantly different in most areas except school donations, was not balanced. She asked attendees to choose to cut the budget, or approve a new fundraiser to cover

the difference. Discussions and questions ensued among the general audience before the consensus was to vote to approve or disapprove this year's operating budget. Thad K. motioned to approve the '05-'06 budget. Diane B. seconded the motion. Present membership approved the motion to approve. Diane B. moved to table the vote on addressing the budget shortfall by adding a fundraiser or cutting the budget. Doreen S. seconded the motion. Present membership approved tabling the vote on adding a fundraiser or cutting the budget. Melinda said she intends to schedule a working budget meeting, open to the general PTO membership, in November to explore these, and any other options brought to the memberships attention.

8. General Announcements

- Volunteer Opportunities – Melinda Y. told attendees there is still a need for an enrichment committee chair. Three of the four enrichment assembly programs are already planned, she said, but there is a need for someone to step up and arrange the fourth, and complete the associated duties of that committee.
- Thanks – Ann E., SGCS PTO vice president, thanked the more than 80 people who volunteered over the summer. Citing Kim C., Virginia and Jeff B., and Gail M. and Gail's entire family as examples of those who went "above and beyond" in their volunteer work, Ann especially thanked them for their hard work. Kim put together the highly-successful mentor programs this summer, Virginia and Jeff and their children landscaped, and provided plants and supplies, for the beautiful school grounds and, Gail M.'s family unpacked and re-shelved all of the library books after the room was refurbished. Ann thanked everyone who had volunteered at SGCS, and reminded them to look at the frog "thank-you" display.
- Melinda reminded attendees the next scheduled PTO meeting is January 11, 2006; however, a November budget meeting is being arranged for general membership.

9. Open Forum—no additional questions asked.

10. Split the Pot –The SGCS Cougar, awarded to the teacher whose class had most parents attending, was won by Mrs. C. The winning split-the-pot ticket was also won by Mrs. C. the only time in recent memory that anyone has won both!

11. Melinda asked for motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn by Ann A. Aimee D. seconds the motion, and the motion to adjourn passes. Meeting adjourns at 8:45 p.m.