**PTO Meeting Minutes**

September 14, 2017

McDonough Hall

*Present: Amy Crilly, Paul Breidenbach, Julia Harmon Bell, Anastasya Balaban, Heather Pflederer, Laura Milder, Kristen Reale, Stacy McEnery, Jennifer Fox, Hallie Caldarone, Lisa Schrantz, Bethany O’Brien, Sarah Arnett, Kenna MacKinnon, Annie Clements, Joanne Biemer, Kelly Richard, Stacy Senechalle, Jen Sabatino, Susan Povailitis*

**Principal’s Report**

Mrs. Zver introduced the new structure for staff leadership and introduced the two Vice Principals to the group. She gave a quick overview of their roles:

* Kim Murawski: Curriculum-based, Student Needs
* Kathy Lofgren: Lunch Program, Kids Klub, Enrichment

They are still working on solidifying responsibilities – by Thanksgiving, this will be clarified and communicated to parents.

Mrs. Zver discussed the dip in current enrollment and explained it is part of an overall trend. The Archdiocese as a whole saw a decrease in enrollment of 3,500 over the summer. St. Giles also a saw significant drop in enrollment. Total current enrollment is 440.

**Communications Report**

**PTO Website**: The PTO section of the school website rolled out this week. If you have any updates or changes or see outdated information in the PTO section, please contact Sarah Arnett at [arnettse@gmail.com](mailto:arnettse@gmail.com).

**PTO Updates**: To submit PTO articles for the weekly enews, please send them to [stgilespto@gmail.com](mailto:stgilespto@gmail.com)

**School Website**: For updates to the school website, please contact the school office at [office@stgilesschool.org](mailto:office@stgilesschool.org).

**Volunteer Training**

The upcoming VIRTUS training sessions are scheduled for Monday, September 18th and October 7th. To meet the archdiocese requirements, every volunteer in the school needs to complete:

* Online Application (one time)
* CANTS (annual)
* Code of Conduct (one time)
* Virtus Training (one time)

Please see the school website for more information and click here to register for an upcoming session -- <http://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg_list2.cfm?theOrgID=18958&theme=0>.

**Treasurer’s Report**

An overview of recent/current PTO expenditures was shared:

* Wish lists from last year have been purchased and distributed.
* Purchased both new bottle fillers/water fountain – one installed, second one coming Friday.
* Contributing towards new dishes for McDonough Hall.
* Contributing toward playground mulch.
* Walkie-talkies for school staff.
* Epi-pen Update: Those who have an allergy all have own epi-pen and stored with the child. Beyond that, five epi-pens cabinets were purchased, three installed throughout school (Corrigan, Frawley, Gleeson teacher lounge. The existing stock is expiring soon (3 sets). Replacements have been ordered. Jen Sabatino mentioned looking at competitor – may be willing to provide for free.

**Committee Reports**

**Book Fair (Laura Milder/Kristen Reale)**

* The Book Fair is scheduled for October 4th- 6th with Andersen Books. Volunteers are needed – please see recent enews for Sign Up information.
* Will have school drawing contest again this, which will be promoted after Lion’s Leap. Each student is welcome to submit one drawing of a character from his or her favorite book.
* An additional piece that will be included this year is the collection of gently used books. After collected, Andersen will help with sorting and dispersing to local charities.

**Birthday Book Club (Heather Pflederer)**

* First BBC is scheduled for September 19th
* Raised issue of book lists – hard to know what books to buy without librarian’s input. If librarian not in place by next BBC, will look for other ways to support teachers through BBC.

**Enrichment (Kenna MacKinnon)**

* Enrichment programs start next week.
* Early registration ended September 13
* Positive feedback on offerings

**Faith and Family (Hallie Caldarone)**

The following events are scheduled for the next month:

* Sept 26 – St. Catherine of Siena
* Sept. 27 – Great Grade K/1st/2nd
* Oct 2 – Guardian Angel prayer service
* Oct. 6 – Faith on the Go – Walk to the Grotto at Dominican

**Fun Lunch (Kelly Richard)**

* Primary lunches have moved up a bit - Volunteers needed at 10:45 am
* Had plenty of volunteers last week – thank you to everyone who helped!
* Children receive 20 mins for lunchtime – encourage parents to talk to children about using that mealtime appropriately

**Trivia Night (Heather Pflederer)**

* First Trivia Night scheduled for Oct. 21
* 7-11pm
* $35 and BYOB
* McDonough Hall
* Casual dress
* Benefits the Outdoor Classroom and Playground
* See recent enews for registration information

**Wellness (Susan Povailitis)**

* Kick off meeting set for September 19th at 7:30 at Susan Povailitis’ house (317 N Kenilworth)
* Staffing water station at Lion’s Leap
* Laura McNamara organizing walk to school initiative

New Ideas/Discussion

**Diversity Committee** **(Lisa Schrantz)**

* Many of the local school have diversity committees in place
* Met with chairs from Beye, Holmes and Longfellow to gather information and learned the three major prongs of this initiative.
  + Welcoming and outreach
  + Knowledge and navigation
  + Equity
* 30% minorities – don’t have 30% represented in a lot of committees and activities of school
* Committee spearheads speaker series on diversity issues/topics
* St. Giles needs to define diversity
* This committee would touch many other committees
* D97 has invited Lisa to piggyback on their initiative, partner with them and follow their roadmap
* Lisa will start to build committee

**Preschool**

* Parent Gathering being coordinated to take place on a Friday night in November at McDonough Hall. Giles provides light fare and it is BYOB.
* Little Lions Parent-Tot Program starting Tuesday, October 3. This is a one-hour program (9-10am) ending with circle time. Little Lions is a Parent-led initiative and will take place in the gross motor room. The 1st class free and then $5/class.

**Stella & Dot / BeautyCounter**

* Andrea Grote will host the event in October
* All proceeds will go to PTO

**ASPIRE Test Scores**

* Talked about understanding, context and interpreting the data
* Idea to schedule a parent coffee chat with Mrs. Zver and discuss these scores
* If you have individual questions, please schedule an appointment with Mrs. Zver

Respectfully submitted by Kristen Reale