

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic School
PTO Board Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2007

The board of the St. Michael School parent organization met on Friday, February 17, 2007 at 11:30 a.m. in the school conference room. School Principal Dr. Sarah Wannemuehler, PTO President Marylynn Fitzgerald, Treasurer Louis Prosser, Secretary Jennifer Butler, VP of Fundraising Colleen Ueland, VP of Social Betsy Nalesnik, and VP of Education Luann Wiggenhorn were present at this meeting.

President

Mrs. Fitzgerald commented on the overwhelming success of last week's Bingo Night, citing high attendance and positive praise by parents. The board agreed that the sold-out event demonstrates a desire for more fun, social family activities. Dr. Wannemuehler noted that she too was impressed by the turnout, the baskets, and the affordability of the evening. In thinking about next year's bingo night, the board discussed how the event might be better structured to include more families, more comfortably. While several alternative locations were suggested, it was decided that a new configuration of tables would be attempted before investigating off-site options. Dr. Wannemuehler mentioned that a school gym would provide the larger space required for bingo and other activities, as well as additional much-needed classrooms.

The by-laws were discussed in preparation for a review and vote by school parents. A separate document to detail procedures for distributing fundraising monies will be created to supplement the by-laws. As part of the allocation process, Dr. Wannemuehler will identify department chairs who will then develop a list of their "needs", which will be communicated to the board. It was further determined that the by-laws should state that the board operates in accordance with a consensus model, rather than a voting model, as has been the practice thus far.

Mrs. Fitzgerald presented a spiral-bound calendar book from a school formerly attended by a St. Michael's family. After checking prices and corporate sponsorship possibilities, the board will determine the feasibility of offering a similar calendar to our parents.

Fundraising

Mrs. Ueland was also very pleased with the success and organization of bingo night. The board discussed the concern heard by Mrs. Ueland with regard to multiple prizes, and/or baskets, being awarded to a single family. It was agreed that the winning of baskets was related to the number of raffle tickets purchased, and therefore fair. For next year's bingo event each class may be asked to put together two or three smaller baskets, rather than a single large prize.

The auction committee has received approximately 260 RSVP cards so far, approaching the 280 capacity. There will be several “teacher items” to bid on this year, such as a movie night with teachers, dinner with a teacher, etc. It was made clear that the teachers will not have any liability on these outings, nor will they be responsible for any costs incurred. It is hoped that all services will be donated; if this is not possible, the auction committee will pay for the prize. Facilitating bids on “class items” such as Bond Park field days and ice cream parties was also discussed by the board, as class bids did not run as smoothly as was hoped at last year’s auction. With past experience to learn from, this year’s class bidding process should be more straightforward and streamlined. Mrs. Ueland mentioned that the raffle tickets for cash/half off tuition have not had impressive sales thus far, so an ad will be placed in the bulletin to welcome parish participation. It was suggested that this raffle might be held as a reverse raffle to help it gain notoriety for future years.

The Family Camp-out planned for May 18th is coinciding with the recently rescheduled 8th grade trip to Busch Gardens. The 8th graders will return later that evening, and will have the option of joining the camp-out upon their return.

The 2007 Jingle Bell Run is being tentatively set for December 1st.

An art gallery is being planned for the 1st floor stairwell landing. It will house “Original Artworks” projects and the 2006 (and future) Jingle Bell Run t-shirt designs.

Mrs. Ueland presented the board with a fundraising opportunity, the March 17th “Shop for a Cause” day at Macy’s. Should the school participate in the event, more information will be provided to parents as soon as possible. Otherwise, it may be considered in subsequent years.

Social

A good number of school families are planning to attend next week’s skating at Jellybeans. “Roller Roo” may make a special appearance at Thursday’s pep rally before visiting with students at carpool as planned.

Eighty-nine 7th and 8th graders were present at the most recent school dance. There are some concerns about the DJ, so Mrs. Nalesnik will investigate options for future dances.

Seventy-four 5th and 6th graders went to bowling night, all wearing the new St. Michael School wristbands. Mrs. Nalesnik noted that the bowling alley staff was very pleased with the conduct of our students.

Later this month the planning will begin for Teacher Appreciation Week. The events will fit with the school’s theme, “We Are Called...” Mrs. Nalesnik proposed having the traditional appreciation week teacher lunch catered this year.

Education

The board agreed that Sister Ann Heath was a wonderful speaker at last month's general PTO meeting. For next month's meeting, Mrs. Wiggenhorn has invited Julia Taylor. Ms. Taylor is a counselor at Apex Middle School who regularly provides talks on bullying and "mean girls".

Mrs. Wiggenhorn has contacted Cardinal Gibbons High School Principal Jason Curtis, to ask if he might want to speak on a broad topic at a PTO meeting, or if he would rather focus more on middle school parents on a separate night.

Mary Ronan is confirmed for a stand-alone presentation in April. The board discussed having John Findlater, who had to cancel his trip to our school earlier in the year, reschedule his visit for the first of the 2007-08 school year.

Treasurer

Mr. Prosser has been updating our profit/loss statements, but continues to wait for additional invoices. As such, an accurate total for fundraising profits could not be provided at this time.

This meeting concluded at 1:40 p.m. The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 19th, at 9:30 a.m.