

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic School
PTO General Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2009

The first general meeting of the 2009-2010 St. Michael School Parent Teacher Organization met on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the Archangel Center. School Principal Dr. Wannemuehler, Assistant Principal Travis Davey, President Laura Grelck, President-elect Kelly Garnett, VP of Fundraising Jenipher Free, VP-elect of Fundraising Jennifer Clark, VP of Education Liz Riegel, VP of Volunteers Christine Danuck, Treasurer Kermit Dowdy, and VP of Social Doris Tobin were present for the meeting. Secretary Ron Ewing was unable to attend.

In total, approximately 75 faculty and parents were in attendance.

Opening Prayer

Laura Grelck led us in opening prayer.

President Remarks (Laura Grelck)

Laura Grelck began by thanking Tom Karpus and Teresa Heath for joining the meeting as guest speakers. She stated the business portion of the PTO meeting would be brief so we could get to the much-anticipated building campaign update.

Laura introduced each PTO Board member (listed above) and asked that they stand. She encouraged everyone to talk to the board members throughout the year and find out what they do to serve our school. The school year goes by very quickly and we will be looking for new board members in just six months. Laura asked the parents to consider serving on the PTO Board. She stated that it has been a wonderful experience.

Principal Update (Dr. Sarah Wannemuehler)

We have had a wonderful start of our school year. This is Dr. Wannemuehler's sixth year at St. Michael School. Dr. Wannemuehler is very proud of the staff and teachers. They started the year off with an inspiring retreat. The theme was "If you want to walk on water, you have to get out of the boat!" Many of the teachers are now meeting weekly for a bible study based on the same book.

Our Grandparents' Day celebrations on September 11 and 14 were attended by more than 300 grandparents—the most we have ever had. The Grandparents came from all over the United States and even other countries. The furthest came from Brazil. The oldest was a 95-year-old grandmother. It was very heartwarming and tender to see our students with their Grandparents.

The Blue Ribbon School announcements came out this week. As we know, St. Michael School did not receive the award this year. There were no Blue Ribbon Schools awarded this year in North Carolina. There are more and more applicants every year for this award. Our facilities, most notably the lack of a gym and cafeteria, continue to hurt our rating. There are items that we can address and we will continue to pursue this award.

This Friday is our first Out-of-Uniform Day for the school year. Students and teachers may donate \$1.00 and come to school out-of-uniform. Guidelines for out-of-uniform dress are listed in the Parent/Student Handbook. The proceeds from the day will be donated to the Grade 6 Light the World Share Sunday project. Dr. Wannemuehler stated that she tries to limit the out-of-uniform days to one a month.

We will celebrate St. Michael Feast Day on September 29. Mass will be at 10 am. Students will enjoy a school-wide bingo game in the afternoon. Dr. Wannemuehler will have a gift for each student to help them feel the special importance of this day.

October 7, we will have the Living Rosary on the fields. This year we look forward to the addition of liturgical dance. A special thank you to Mrs. Clabby for incorporating dance into the Living Rosary.

Dr. Wannemuehler asked that we continue to pray for each other.

Financial Report (Kermit Dowdy)

Kermit began by reviewing how the PTO dollars are spent.

- 7% Fine and Performing Arts/Music/Languages
- 20% Athletics
- 25% Technology
- 9% Teacher and Administrative Support
- 15% Capital Building Improvements
- 5% Spiritual and Educational Enrichment
- 3% Library
- 5% Endowment/Reserves
- 10% Student Activities
- 1% PTO Administrative

Kermit then discussed the income estimates for the year. In an auction year, our goal is \$150,000. We use the auction to help carry the expenses of our PTO for two years through revenue-sharing. For this year, our current estimate of income is \$142,150.

The income account summary as of September 9 is \$3,681.18 credited to the calendar sales and Angel Bucks.

PTO Expense Summary

\$ 104,325 BUDGETED EXPENSES FOR 2009-2010

Account	Description	Amount
Athletics	Re-line Soccer field	120.00
Athletics	09-10 Sports Referees	5,000.00
Athletics	Triangle Volleyball Club	200.00
Athletics	Referee Booking Fees	185.00
Music & Performing Arts	Music Equipment	2792.00
Music & Performing Arts	International Thespian Society	190.00
Music & Performing Arts	Royalties	278.25
Music & Performing Arts	Band Music	165.44
Music & Performing Arts	Purchase of 59 Guitars	4,719.41
Library	Bearport Books	359.07
Student Activities	Ice Cream Social	156.93
Teacher & Admin Support	Carry over Teacher Conference	460.46
Teacher & Admin Support	Professional Development Course	225.00
Teacher & Admin Support	Expenses for Music Seminar	1,083.35
Technology	56% of 30 new computers for Lab	23,171.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$39,105.91	

PTO Testimonials (Kelly Garnett)

Kelly Garnett read the following letters from Mrs. Okamoto and Mrs. Gay:

Dear Mrs. Grelck,

I just read the impressive note that you wrote concerning the PTO funds. My name is on there! When I went to that Orff workshop, I met music teachers from all over the state. I quickly found out that I was the only one there who had their way paid for by the school! I am so grateful for the support from St. Michael parents – I just didn't know who to thank! Please extend my gratitude to the other parents as well.

*Thanks again,
Judy Okamoto*

Dear PTO members,

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the PTO meeting tonight as my dad came to town and stayed for a week. I feel that I need to spend each evening with him since he is home alone during the days.

I am writing to say thank you for the Staples gift card we received at the beginning of the school year. Please know that the items purchased with the monies went directly to my classroom.

Also, I received a SMART board in my classroom this year. I understand that the money was allocated from the PTO for this purchase. Thank you! Since installing all of the components last week, I have already utilized the SMART board in one of my lessons each day. I am very excited to learn new ways to improve my techniques, find new ways to instruct on the board, and have fun with technology in the classroom. The children enjoy interacting with the SMART board touch sensors. Thank you for providing this. I encourage you to continue funding more boards for our school. After only a few lessons, I realized the potential for those teachers who want to participate with this technology.

Cindy Gay

Grade 1 teacher

Fundraising Report (Jenipher Free)

Jenipher discussed the following events currently in the progress:

MUMS SALE: There were 165 orders placed with a profit of \$759. This was a good first-time effort which we hope to grow next year. Everyone who ordered these plants can take advantage of picking them up during carpool on October 7.

POINSETTIA SALE: Orders will take place in October. We will be teaming up with the ECC for additional sales. The Cary News will advertise the event. The profit last year was \$1,200. Some information states that poinsettia plants are poisonous. Jenipher stated that this information is not true.

CITIPASS: There were 336 sold to date with a profit of \$4,200! This is an amazing result for a first-time fundraiser. Jenipher thanked Jennifer Clark for leading this fundraiser for our school.

JOLLY ELF RUN: Meetings are under way to discuss ideas and planning sessions.

AUCTION: The start-up meeting is set for September 16. The auction is held every two years. The funds raised the last auction carried us through two years of expenses. Jenipher raised and responded to the question of why we have an auction in this economy and during our building campaign. She stated that we rely on the auction to fund our PTO activities for two years. Without it our school would not benefit from many activities, events, and equipment. The auction date is March 6, 2010. Jenipher urged everyone to mark their calendars and reserve their babysitters.

BOOK FAIR: The book fair is set for October 12 - 16. Family night will occur like last year. Classes will also be touring to review books.

Upcoming Speakers (Liz Riegel)

Liz announced that Dr. Wannemuehler will be our guest speaker for the October 14 PTO Education Night. Dr. Wannemuehler speaks all over the country and we are lucky to have her share her wisdom with us. The name of her talk is "Walking the Technology Tightrope." She will discuss how parents can protect our children and help them become personally responsible for their safety on the Web. Dr. Wannemuehler will discuss the challenges parents face raising children in this Internet era.

Father Mike Spurr will speak at the November 19 general PTO meeting. He will tell his story of a Midwestern boy to his calling into the priesthood. Liz stated that we are trying a morning meeting based on the feedback that we received from our end of year PTO surveys.

Volunteer Recognition (Christine Danuck)

Christine stated that we currently have 280 volunteers, which is a good response for a school our size. Christine recognized Ken and Christine Peebles as the Volunteers of the Month. They volunteered for several events already this year including coaching soccer, school grounds clean-up, sports concessions, hot lunch and many more. Christine noted that they are parents of five children and still make time to lend a helping hand. What an example of stewardship! The Peebles were presented an Angel Bucks gift card.

Building Campaign Update, Teresa Heath & Tom Karpus

Dr. Wannemuehler introduced Teresa Heath. Teresa stated this was her first PTO meeting ever in six years because she was usually home with the children while her husband, Peter, came to the meetings. Teresa gave a very emotional and moving speech. Teresa asked everyone to come out of their comfort zone. She called everyone to look inside your heart and pray. No matter what your talent, the Building Campaign needs your involvement. What are you called to do? She stated that Peter is still with us during these times. Teresa appealed to reach out and find what you can do to help with this project. There are no words to describe her emotional speech.

Tom Karpus stated that David Byerley will replace Peter Heath on the committee. There will be additional committees formed to assist with the further development of the project. These committees are Diocese interaction, construction, communication and special events committee. We are currently dealing with issues involving traffic surveys, follow-up of pledges, Town of Cary project approvals, call for volunteers, and forming of additional committees. The updates will be in the principal's weekly letter, parish bulletin, and link on school website.

The total project is estimated at \$9 million. We have raised to date \$1 million. The Diocese has reduced our percent of cash-on-hand from 50 % to 33 %. We have spent \$500,000 to date. Tom's complete Power Point presentation is on the school website.

The following questions were raised:

1. **Should we reach out to our city council members?** Tom replied that we are currently in contact with our council members and feel that we have a good working relationship at this time.
2. **Why the Traffic survey?** Tom replied that High House Road is considered a distressed traffic area and the town and state have certain requirements we have to meet.
3. **How can I volunteer?** Tom replied "Please email or call me and we will match you talent to the committee."

Laura Grelick thanked Teresa and Tom for presenting to the group. She then stated that our PTO Bylaws mandate that we give 15% of our budget to Capital Building Improvements. The last two years, we have given this money to the Building Campaign. Laura then gave Tom Karpus a check is for \$13,900. As a PTO we have given approximately \$82,000 to the Building Campaign. Laura thanked everyone in the room for their support to the PTO.

Laura then thanked everyone for their attendance. She asked that before parents left to be sure to take a look at the wonderful artwork from Mrs. Amos's second- and seventh-grade students. Laura stated that Gis Donovan was also in the back with an Original Artworks display if anyone had questions for her.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.