

**St. Michael the Archangel Catholic School  
Parent Organization General Meeting Minutes  
March 5, 2007**

The fourth general meeting of the St. Michael School Parent Teacher Organization was held in the Pastoral Center on Monday, March 5, 2007, at 7 p.m. PTO board President Marylynn Fitzgerald, Treasurer Louis Prosser, VP of Fundraising Colleen Ueland, VP of Education Luann Wiggenhorn, VP of Social Betsy Nalesnik, VP of Volunteers Maureen Beeler, and Secretary Jennifer Butler were present, as well as school Principal Dr. Sarah Wannemuehler. Twenty-four parents were in attendance.

**Opening Prayer**

**Read by Marylynn Fitzgerald**

God of the journey,

We have come here trusting in you, believing that you dwell within us, counting on you to be our companion as we move through our lives.

Remind us often that you are with us...Keep us mindful of your presence...Be our strength; grant us guidance as we continue on our journey...sometimes choosing a new path...help us often to remember that truly your power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

Amen.

**PTO Update**

**Speaker: Marylynn Fitzgerald, PTO President**

Mrs. Fitzgerald remarked on the community-building that took place among school families at last month's Bingo event, and anticipates that this will continue to be evident at the upcoming auction. She added that most of this year's PTO fundraising efforts have been structured as events, and that the PTO has declined fundraisers focused on selling goods (magazines, wrapping paper, etc.) for school profit. Any parent willing to provide feedback or suggestions regarding fundraising or other PTO-sponsored activities was encouraged to do so through the new PTO email address, [stmpto@stmccary.org](mailto:stmpto@stmccary.org).

Mrs. Fitzgerald outlined the Angel Bucks Rebate Program and provided an opportunity for parents to ask questions and/or raise concerns. As no further discussion was initiated, the Angel Bucks Rebate Program was approved through a vote by a show of hands of those present.

In a review of the updated by-laws, Mrs. Fitzgerald drew attention to changes pertaining to term lengths and positions. She reiterated the belief that the new terms and additional board positions will strengthen the overall continuity of the PTO. A parent asked if the “elect” positions will have a vote at meetings, and Mrs. Fitzgerald indicated that board members filling “elect” roles will have an equal vote. It was then asked what was meant by a vote, as the by-laws state that the board follows a consensus model of operation. Mrs. Fitzgerald clarified that all board members will have one vote at general meetings, and confirmed that within board meetings a consensus approach is used, and votes do not occur. Following this discussion the by-laws were passed by a show of hands of all present.

In her remaining comments, Mrs. Fitzgerald asked for more volunteers to work 30 minute shifts at Saturday’s auction. She mentioned that Teacher Appreciation Week planning meetings are ongoing, and planning meetings for the May 18<sup>th</sup> Family Camp-Out are about to begin. Additional volunteers are always welcome. As the Nominating Committee for this year’s PTO board elections has been formed, Mrs. Fitzgerald also asked that parents consider running or nominating a fellow parent for board positions.

**Speaker: Louis Prosser, Treasurer**

Mr. Prosser reviewed the current PTO balance sheet, included at the end of this document. He noted that the auction numbers are skewed, as the bulk of expenses associated with the auction are yet to be paid. There were no questions about this report.

**Speaker: Luann Wiggenhorn, VP of Education**

On Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, Mary Ronan will present to parents in the evening, in addition to speaking with St. Michael middle school students on Tuesday and Wednesday during school hours. Ms. Ronan is a registered nurse as well as a Christian family life and sex educator. Mrs. Wiggenhorn describes Ms. Ronan as a powerful, frank communicator who will couple her practical parenting advice with an affirmation of the God-given role parents have in raising their children.

**School Update**

**Speaker: Dr. Sarah Wannemuehler, Principal**

In the Pastoral Center gathering space, Dr. Wannemuehler called attention to the new Pergo floor, the materials and installation of which were donated. Fresh paint and curtains complete the renovation.

Dr. Wannemuehler reported that there are currently a significant number of sick students, some of whom are suffering from lengthy illnesses such as flu and scarlet fever. She

asked that parents do not allow children to attend school, or return to school, unless they are completely healthy, in part to help slow the spread of germs.

Dr. Wannemuehler provided parents with considerable information regarding school admissions. At this time there is a significant wait list for the 2007-08 school year, particularly for kindergarten. Dr. Wannemuehler explained that neither she nor Mrs. Carlin determine who will be granted admission to the school, as admissions are decided by the Governing Board. Therefore, questions regarding acceptance should be addressed to the Governing Board, which consists of two parishioners of each of the three area churches—St. Michael's, St. Andrew's, and St. Mary Magdalene. The Governing Board members have been appointed by their respective pastor and are not associated with either St. Michael School or St. Mary Magdalene School. This special board was formed out of covenants between St. Michael's, St. Andrew's, and St. Mary Magdalene, in part to provide a fair opportunity for St. Andrew's parishioners to attend either St. Michael's or St. Mary Magdalene, as St. Andrew's church does not have a school of its own. Dr. Wannemuehler finds the Governing Board admission process problematic, and while she does not foresee a change in its structure, she is hopeful that some of the procedures relevant to school acceptance will be amended. It seems that the methodology used for admission is unclear, and decisions are not documented. The date of application is supposed to carry weight in gaining a spot, as applications turned in at the start of the application period should be given priority. Dr. Wannemuehler has not seen that this has been carried out, however. It was noted that St. Andrew's parishioners are generally accepted to one of the two Catholic schools as there are so few applicants from that church.

A parent asked if next year's class sizes will increase, due to the high demand for seats. Dr. Wannemuehler is committed to maintaining 27 students per class. The only permissible exception may be made in order for a child to attend the same school as his/her siblings who have been accepted. In such cases, only one additional student will be admitted per class, thus making 28 the absolute maximum class size. It was mentioned that letters will be sent out to returning families next week, to confirm their re-enrollment for 2007-08.

In coming weeks, prospective kindergarteners will complete the Boehm test, a tool to help assess school readiness. This will be the third year that this test is used at St. Michael's. If Dr. Wannemuehler or a kindergarten teacher has concerns about a child's readiness, it may be recommended to the parents that their child might benefit from a year in PreK or transitional program. Should parents elect to postpone kindergarten for 2007-08, that child will be guaranteed admission in the following year.

In remaining school news, Dr. Wannemuehler mentioned the 8<sup>th</sup> grade's trip to Washington, DC this week. The success of the St. Michael teams at the Shamrock Tournament was also relayed. It has been announced that the school fields have been entirely paid for, which coincides with the upcoming baseball season about to start for the first time on the new fields.

### **Supplemental Presentation: Light the World**

Julia Taylor, a national speaker, author, and Apex Middle School counselor, had been scheduled to present a talk on issues of bullying at this PTO meeting. Unfortunately, Ms. Taylor had to cancel due to a family illness. In her place, a Light the World slide show was presented to parents, detailing some of the activities the children have participated in this year through this service-focused program. Mrs. Wiggernhorn gave credit to the Light the World creators, Mary Ellen Bruno, Peggy Thompson, and Karen MacDonald, for their vision and hard work.

### **Closing Prayer**

The “Hail Mary” was led by Marylynn Fitzgerald.

Following this prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

### **Treasurer Report 3/1/07 Saint Michael PTO**

**Louis M. Prosser, Treasurer**  
questions: [lprosser@ft.newyorklife.com](mailto:lprosser@ft.newyorklife.com)

#### Creative Arts:

Income:	\$4,797.50
Expense:	\$3,558.00
<b>Profit:</b>	<b><u>\$1,239.50</u></b>

#### Christmas Trees:

Income:	\$19,824.09
Expense:	\$13,514.46
<b>Profit:</b>	<b><u>\$ 6,309.63</u></b>

#### Jingle Bell Run:

Income:	\$9,284.00
Expense:	\$4,545.18
<b>Profit:</b>	<b><u>\$4,738.82</u></b>

Harvest Moon:

Income:	\$4,273.00
Expense:	\$1,950.52
<b>Profit:</b>	<b><u>\$2,322.48</u></b>

Bingo:

Income:	\$6,974.91
Expense:	\$3,602.80
<b>Profit:</b>	<b><u>\$3,372.11</u></b>

Auction:

Income:	\$44,294.88
Expense:	\$3,980.61
<b>Profit:</b>	<b><u>\$40,314.27</u></b>

Misc:

Income:	\$100.00
Expense:	\$1,614.61
<b>Profit:</b>	<b><u>(\$1,514.61)</u></b>

**Total Profit w/o Scrips \$58,396.81**

Angel Bucks (unaudited):

Income:	\$254,105.38
Expense:	\$236,382.37
St. Michael PTO Revenue:	\$17,723.01 *

\* This figure does not include inventory in the safe. Ellen Dalbo can provide better figures.