

SMA School Board Meeting

October 18, 2023

7:00pm in Beyanka Hall

Board Members Present: Wayne Wenzel, Chris Cwynar, Erin Szymanski, Ruben Ontanon, Eva Kogut, Lena Suwalski, Debra Ingargiola, Michael Fernandez, Nick Zayas, Phillip Guzman

- 7:00 pm – Welcome & Prayer
- 7:05 pm - Approval of Minutes – Deb and Eva approved
- 7:10 pm – Pastor’s Report -Not present
- 7:20 pm – Principal’s Report

Looking into the cost of website improvement. Getting bids from Final Site and Edlio. Looking at the websites they have made (northside catholic academy).

Trying to get curriculum scopes and sequences onto a website. Would like to have them ready by January 2024.

The school completed required safety drills.

Talking about the 75th anniversary SMA parish - November 5th 9am mass celebration.

Monday meeting with sports council about spirit wear.

After school Enrichment programs are underway.

Mustang of the month in September went well. Discussions about valued qualities of the students have been wonderful.

Looking into officer friendly program with 16th district.

Making surveys and focus groups with parents regarding mandatory volunteer hours for 2024-25.

Ideas/goals for fundraising – gym doors and concrete leading into gym doors looking into being replaced.

- 7:30 pm – Committee Updates

- Environmental Awareness (Ruben)

- New plaque for bench. Need to weed and clean up garden. New mulch donated. Possibly looking into getting sign or retouching current sign.

- Legislative Action Policy Report (Eva) no updates

- Hospitality (Eva & Jen):

- Eva reached out to 2 room parents who put together a room parent manual. Will hopefully be able to collect \$ through FACTs.

- Parent teacher conference food for teachers.

- Would like a larger sign/map for Family Pick up day. Also, would like a Room Parent Table. Would like to include 1st and 2nd grade parents at Family Pick up day.

- CIA (Phil):

- Movie night coming up November 17th.

- Finance (Mike)

- Looked at last few events and looking at spending. Looked at bid sheets from Gala to see what fits our audience. Would like to have a feedback survey after events.

- Alumni (Chris):

- Dino's reunion, looking for photos from that event.

- Volunteers (Chris, Debbie, Lena, Nick)

- Sign up genius is working well.

- Will be selling wreaths & getting volunteers for that.

- Fundraising(Chris, Debbie, Lena, Nick)

- Gala – went great

- Wreaths – next fundraiser

- 7:35 pm – Old Business
 - Marketing: Will be looking at this in the next couple weeks.
 - Gala: Went great. Everyone seemed to have great time. Would love to have critical feedback to try to please as many as we can. Early numbers: \$15,000-18,000 roughly.

We used to have a school directory of all of the businesses within the school. This would help for donations.

- World's Finest – still calculating totals. Selling at mass on December 2nd and 3rd.
 - Hospitality - Book Fair. There is a Pre-K 4 parent who is willing to take over for next school year. Eva will follow up.
 - Back to school night (9/13): We well.
 - Buona Beef Dine Out (\$405.55)
 - Spirit wear store (meet with people involved after Gala)
- 7:43 pm – New Business
 - Marketing: Trying to think about how to recruit and retain new families. Email Wayne with any ideas.

Maybe we could ask new families as part of enrollment “what made you pick St. Monica?”

We would like to get local Newspapers/Magazines to promote our school.

Need a banner for Catholic Schools Week.

- Gala (10/19/2024): Mission Hills in Northbrook. Looking for a block of hotel room bookings. Looking into shuttle from SMA to gala.

Wayne will look into a software to offer online bidding for the gala.

- Spirit wear store (meet with people involved after Gala)
 - Trunk or Treat (10/21) 8th grade running concessions all proceeds goes to their 8th grade dance. 17 cars from 12-2pm. Games, passing out candy.
 - Northwood Wreaths: order form going out Nov 1st. Posted at both churches. Pick up 2nd and 3rd of December. Paper copies of everything in parishes.
 - Hospitality - Book Fair
 - Movie Night – November 17th flyer going out soon.
 - Instagram/Facebook: Wayne would like to have been able to post pictures with what grade the students are in and possibly students' names. Will keep names off of posts until it is clear in the waiver signed.
- 8:10 pm - Visitor's Open Discussion (2 mins per question)

Parent: My student is scared to wear a sweatshirt. Can we get clarification on what they can wear?

Wayne: Teacher was asked what students can wear. I told the faculty that we have to get back to understanding dress code. I want unification. Told faculty to crack down on dress code. Dress code is in the handbook and was signed off on.

I am aware that there is confusion. But the uniform needs to match what is in the handbook. I am trying to ease us back to uniform.

Spirit wear will be on specific spirit days.

Since the confusion exists spirit wear is allowed until I converse with stakeholders.

Parent: IXL? Looking for reading resources.

Wayne: IXL will not replace I-ready. Mr. Weber is trying to organize a tutoring program. Working with 6th, 7th, 8th graders as tutors.

Parent: Neighborhood Facebook group. Do we have to get permission to post on these pages?

Wayne: You do not need to get permission. Please go ahead and post.

Parent: We have heard there are problems once students transfer into junior high.

Wayne: That may be a representation of what happened previously. Teachers may be getting students prepared for high school. Trying to get a greater sense of stability for these grades.

- 8:36 pm - Meeting Adjourned

Future meeting date: Wednesday, November 15th @ 7:00 pm