

HSA Board Meeting Minutes - September 8, 2015 - 7:30 pm

In attendance: Sean Lennard, Brad Hammill, Michael Ashton, Louis Olszyk, Tara Carew, Charlotte Gage, Angela Casey, Amy Randall, Laura Stewart, Robin McGrath, Megan Olarte, Crystal Kang, Dina Trobbian, Laura Fenn, Courtney Caiola, Christy Arrowood, Waka Kadoma, Christian Fellner, Elizabeth Walters, Terri Conner, Jennifer Routh, Stacy Cox.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Brad Hammill.

The meeting was opened by Brad Hammill by welcoming everyone to the first meeting of the year and an opening prayer. Everyone introduced themselves.

Principal's Report was provided by Dr. Michael Ashton – he shared that this year the school has a “journey” theme. A lot of what he and the staff have been doing and continue to do this year will center on the latest Encyclical (Laudato Si) recently released by the Vatican. He shared that there are a lot of new faces on staff and they had all recently returned from a retreat with a focus on getting to know one another and the Laudato Si. There have been a lot of improvements to the school over the summer and he thanked the HSA for their role in a lot of those. He discussed the upcoming PATHSS concept that is more about a “dialogue” about your child over a period of time, rather than a single parent/teacher meeting. Address issues earlier in the year. He also talked about RenWeb and the improved communication that tool brings to the school. He also discussed the desire to fulfill the school's mission to be more reflective of the population of our parish, and that will be a continuing effort. And with that there will be an emphasis on a new inter-cultural dialogue (with parents, educators and students) and how we reach out to children not currently in our building.

HSA President's Report was given by Brad Hammill. Lots of thanks for efforts over the summer and in the beginning weeks of school. He noted the Ice Cream Social; Back to School Teacher Appreciation Lunch; Angel Families (40+ new families); Buildings & Grounds mulching the 3 yr. old playground and new sandbox and the turf on the lower school playground; and lots of Capital Projects that took place over the summer with monies from the HSA. He also noted our new website and being part of the larger website and the new RenWeb communication tool; the bird garden and the earth loom. He also reminded the board that they should have seen communication recently on: “How To Get Reimbursed”; a “How to Communicate” from Louis; and “How To Record Your Volunteer Hours.” He also noted we have a HSA bulletin board in the front hallway. We are still

working on ordering new chairs for the STM Hall. There is a need for someone to become the “Chess Grandmaster” and keep that program running. And we are still in need of Chairs for our annual auction. Brad also reminded folks that he works full-time, but would always make himself available should anyone need him.

Treasurer’s Report was given by Stacy Cox. She distributed the Income & Expense report where she highlighted some of the activity that had taken place over the summer – minimal. She did note some uniform monies and that the turf had been installed and that was addressed in some of the changes. But overall, there was minimal activity.

Committee Chair Updates

- A. Halloween Carnival – The event is October 30th and they already have a ton of volunteers and the room parents are meeting tomorrow. The sign-up genius emails will start going out next week. Dr. Ashton reminded everyone that decorations and costumes need to be appropriate.
- B. Academic Enrichment – Have received 3 requests for Script Spelling Bee (4th – 7th); National Geographic Bee (4th – 8th) and Catholic Math Week (3rd-5th). It was noted this was a great way for kids to have fun and be recognized for academia.
- C. Buildings & Grounds – It was noted that the 3 yo playground had been mulched and had a new sand box installed. Parish Pride Day is October 10th. There continue to be drainage and shade issues with the pre-k playground, and they continue to explore options.
- D. Social Committee – It was noted about the success of the Ice Cream Social and that the Mother/Son Bowling Night has been scheduled for November.
- E. Environmental Stewardship – There has been quite a bit of activity on recycling education. The committee has narrowed it down and focused on 4 primary areas. And it has been met with great success (an 82% increase in recycling in 12 months). The committee is looking for a “zero-waste” event and will continue to explore the best opportunity for that.
- F. Special Fundraisers – The first Spirit Night is a week from tomorrow. You can either pre-order or simply show up the night of. In October, Freddy’s will be the location. They are looking into Tervis tumblers for STM and other “marketable” items/promotion items.
- G. Scholastic Bok Fair – It will run from September 25th through noon on October 2nd. Terri is looking for volunteers and noted that the cash registers are very easy to operate. They will have more middle school options this year, the teacher/classrooms wish list again and

the opportunity for a “grandparent” gift certificate.

New Business

2015-16 HSA Budget Approval

Tracy presented the 2015-2016 Budget where she highlighted the figures that changed because of activity over the summer. She noted that the cash at the beginning was higher than anticipated. She also noted that \$15k was set aside for the chairs of the STM Hall and that the turf was still there. They also adjusted the auction down to \$55k from \$80k simply because they still don't have someone to chair that event. Perhaps that event will be smaller this year or shift its focus slightly, which would also decrease expenses. She also noted an increase in Capital Support to the School and Tuition Support to the School. The Teacher Funds line is dictated by who we hire. And Technology had a small amount of monies left over.

There was a motion by Robin McGrath and a second by Tara Carew to approve the 2015-16 Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

HSA Racial Equity Committee Formation Proposal

Courtney Caiola presented to the board the proposal to create a HSA Racial Equity Committee. The purpose would be to help foster and create an environment where “all are welcome at the supper table of the Lord” laid out in our mission. She was seeking the official formation of the committee (made up of parents and teachers); hold 3 faculty workshops; sponsor 2 teacher (lower and upper) to attend the Racial Equity Institute's workshop on Latino Challenged Workshop October 9-10; and have a liaison with the Parish Unity Task Force.

There was a motion by Angela Casey to create the HSA Racial Equity Committee and support their initiatives. The motion was seconded by Laura Finn. Upon vote, there were three dissents (Robin McGrath, Dina Trobbian and Louis Olszyk) but the motion was carried by majority.

Pre-K Playground

There was a discussion around the pre-k playground and its current condition. There is a drainage issue as well as a lack of shade (the drainage issue is an ongoing issue and the “shade” issue is new due to the loss of a tree in the playground area). It was also noted that the equipment is “old” and the entire area needs attention. Christian is going to look at options for addressing these issues and report back to the board.

Auction Discussion

Brad led a discussion on the Auction. It is our largest single fundraiser and currently we do not have a chair for this event. Brad is going to craft an email asking for individuals to step up. He also asked for the board's help in identifying an individual or individuals. With the right group of people, many felt the task was much more manageable. Everyone's help is needed on this.

The next HSA Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 13, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the STM library.

Meeting was adjourned by Brad Hammill at 9:28 p.m.