

# Columbus Catholic Schools Parent Association Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2019  
CCHS cafeteria



**Attendance:** Keesha Adler, Beth Stratman, Megan Kinning, Kim Freeman, Kris Nielsen, Michelle Maurer, Shirley Heise, Asavari Krizenesky, Teri Wilczek, Emily Callaghan, Jen Mueller

**Opening prayer** - Jen Mueller at 6:35 pm

After introductions and attendance, Teri suggested that we take names for thank you cards and spend the last few minutes of the meeting writing a thank you note to a teacher or staff member that should be recognized. (At the end of the meeting, we wrote nine thank you notes!)

## **Treasurer's Report - Michelle**

Michelle said we have \$2464.92 currently but more dues have not been deposited yet. Michelle said that at this time of year, dues tend to come in slowly so she plans to make a deposit about every 3-4 weeks. Recent expenses included the donation of playground balls and copies for the reminder letter that was sent to all families.

## **Secretary's Report - Jen**

There were no changes or corrections to the last meeting minutes. Shirley did note that several parents thanked her for sending the minutes.

## **Follow-Up:**

Megan Kinning shared about Grandparents Day. The photo frame was a huge hit and there were long lines of grandparents and kids waiting for pictures at both buildings. Megan was going to organize all of the photos and distribute so they could go home with the students. She suggested asking for a \$1 donation if any families want reprints. All members present agreed that was more than fair.

There was discussion about how to make the frame reusable/more stable to use year after year and also that more help would be needed to keep lines moving. There was also discussion about asking families to help provide juice and cookies.

## **PA Structure & School Communication**

Thank you to our dedicated principals for sending out the PA minutes to all families as well as reminders about upcoming meetings!

## **Promotion & Membership**

Michelle brought up the Parent Association scholarship and wondered if we would offer that this year. In the past, the student had to submit an essay and the parents had to pay the

dues for all four years of high school in order for a student to be eligible to win. Michelle said that in some cases, the PA allowed families to pay retroactively. It was suggested to table any discussion until we are better able to determine if we have enough funds to offer a scholarship to discuss any criteria for eligibility.

The PA members thanked Teri and Emily for creating and getting the mailing out to all families asking for dues (if not already paid), noting the upcoming meetings, and again letting families know the mission and goals of the PA.

It was noted that it would be nice if we had Columbus notecards of our own to send welcome notes to new families as well as thank you notes, and Michelle said she would stop at Heinzen to ask about cost, as well as talking to Angie in Development. She will report back at the next meeting.

### **Appreciation**

The PA provided a soup dinner for the St. John's staff and teachers during Parent/Teacher conferences, but Shirley noted that most were so busy with conferences that it wasn't able to be enjoyed until the next day. Many faculty didn't have much time to take a break to eat and soup really can't be eaten very quickly. Several people commented that perhaps we should be providing something more simple - fruit, protein bars, a sandwich, pretzels, etc that faculty could "brown bag" for convenience. Both Asavari and Beth offered to meet and come up with some ideas for OLP and CCMS/HS conferences in mid-November. Emily will create the Sign-Up Genius once they decide on the meal.

With Homecoming this week and all of the activities and special events that make it special for our students, several people mentioned doing some appreciation for the CCMS/HS faculty and staff next week once things settle down. Breakfast was suggested as something easy to do - yogurt, donuts, bagels, etc that could be purchased rather than asking parents to provide or bake. Kim, Teri, and Asavari said they would coordinate this for the morning of October 23 (Wednesday).

Regarding staff anniversaries, it was suggested to do something special in the spring - perhaps during Teacher Appreciation week. Jen Edwards would have a database with anniversary dates, so we could start working on it now to plan for this year and coming years.

Catholic Schools Week is coming up in late January. We will plan to do one or two special things for the faculty and staff then and one or two special things in early May for Teacher Appreciation.

For appreciation during December/Advent, one suggestion was a short note of thanks and a chocolate candy or two. Plans will be finalized at the next meeting in November.

### **Fundraising**

Fr. Robertson approved the sale of coffee and cappuccino for the Elementary Christmas Concert on December 18 at OLP. However, it is not clear if drinks will be allowed in the sanctuary or if they must stay in the entrance to be consumed. Casa Hogar will also have a bake sale at the concert.

Teri will talk to Kelly Weiler about the cappuccino machine and Kelly will come up to troubleshoot the machine if needed so that we can get it working.

Our 50/50 raffle at the volleyball game last Thursday raised \$290. Many games may be available for us to hold 50/50 raffles and it's also very good publicity for the PA. Teri will get open dates from Coach K and report back.

The painting nights in December with Jen Brock are being planned. Emily and Megan are working on this. One night for students, one night for adults only is the plan.

Emily shared some information about McTeacher night at McDonalds as a possible fundraiser. They need 12 teachers for a one hour shift (from 4-7pm only). 10% of all sales during that time would be given to the PA, and it was noted that most schools raise \$400-500 in that time. This would be good publicity for the PA and also homerooms could do poster contests as a way to encourage families to make a trip to McDonald's that night.

Emily had received a list of the open dates and members agreed that March or April would be preferable. Emily will follow up on this and report back in November.

### **Distribution of Funds**

We discussed the form Teri had created for funding requests from the PA. It was suggested that we distribute to faculty as school starts with a due date of mid-October, so that we could decide on what to fund based on the funds we have. Shirley suggested that we make a guideline for things we will and will not fund so that the faculty also know what we want to support.

### **Recruitment and Retention**

We discussed getting the dates for the Open Houses and "Next Year and Beyond" events that are typically held in February. We could invite our newer families to attend, and Michelle suggested offering childcare in case that is a deterrent for attendance. Perhaps students that need service hours could provide childcare in the building with some adult supervisors? We will continue discussion on this at the next meeting.

**Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 13 at 6:30 pm.**

Meeting closed at 7:45 pm.