

SJS Parents' Club Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2017- 7:00p.m.

Appreciation Celebration

Call to Order

- o Meeting was called to order at 7:20p.m.
- o The Minutes from our January 2017 Meeting were approved.

President's Report: Gina Zebron

- o To have attendees at a Parents' Club meeting is extremely exciting! I'd like to give credit to Beth Cloud, our Secretary, for coming up with the idea to host a Parents' Club social night. It worked out well for us to partner it with a meeting so that all of you who were willing to join us could walk away with more than just a night cap and a snack. We really do hope you find the information that is shared tonight valuable. Looking ahead, this sort of social meeting should definitely be planned earlier in the school year to help our new families become acclimated to our mission and how we all fit in to the volunteer circle. There's a little something for everybody within Parents' Club
- o As parents we've all learned that the best way of teaching our children is by setting a good example. Our children observe us spending time at home working on projects or events for school and they see us at school volunteering in so many different capacities. Our children take great pride in knowing their mom or dad is at school helping. Their young eyes, minds and hearts are always watching.
- o Before we continue on with our agenda, I'd like to express my gratitude to all of you who wanted to be here and made special arrangements to make it happen. Cheers to you for setting a great example for your children. Please feel free to ask questions as we continue. The intent of this meeting is to inform. If you have something new to share, we do have an Open Forum opportunity in our agenda later on. Your comments and ideas are welcome here.

Treasurer's Report: Abbie Papanicholas

- o Village Checking Account Balance: \$ 53,188.91
- o Money Market Account Balance: \$ 28, 923.28

Where does most of the money go?

- Teacher Stipends
 - o \$4200 in August
 - o \$9725 for Christmas
 - o \$4200 during Catholic Schools Week
 - o \$4200 for Teacher Appreciation
- Annual School Wish List
 - o Last year we paid out \$25,000 for Mrs. Pappas' Which List
 - o We also paid out \$5,000 for ipads for the classrooms
- Awards and Gifts
 - o \$3430 for end of the year Teacher Gifts
 - o \$500 to the Heart of the School Awards

- Flowers for the teachers
- Hospitality
 - Beginning of the year Luncheon
 - Teacher Conferences Dinner
 - Catholic Schools Week Luncheon
- Cultural Arts Events
- May Crowning and the Graduation Dinner

Where does most of the money come from?

- Registration (Almost \$20,000)
 - Registration
 - Fundraising Fee
- Ladies Night Out
 - Last year Ladies Night Out netted \$25,000
- Every Little Bit Counts
 - The next three biggest money makers are the Magazine Drive, Broadway Bulldogs, and the School Raffle

Why are we “sitting” on money?

- We are actually not sitting on money.
 - We are required to end the year with a surplus in the account in case the following year is unsuccessful. For example, what if there is a blizzard on Ladies Night Out. What if no one contributes to the Fundraising Fee?
 - We have earmarked \$14,000 in technology expenditures that still needs to be paid out
 - \$20,000 is going to a school gift that has not been decided on ye

***It is asked that when chairing the various committees, we are mindful of the fact that we are dealing with other people’s money. Please keep track of all money and checks, and please keep a written summary of expenses, any donation and income. If you have any receipts that need to be reimbursed, we are asking that they be turned in in a timely manner, preferably within six weeks of the date of your event. We are so thankful for all of the volunteers and appreciate all the time and effort put forth to make this organization successful.

Principal’s Report: Mrs. Pappas

- Thank you to Parents’ Club for all you do. Thank you to everyone who helps with Parent’s Club. We couldn’t do what we do without you.
- Registration is going well so far. We hope to hit 500 students next year, but we budget conservatively. After Friday, registration goes up \$50. Thank you for spreading the word about St. James. We are one of the strongest schools in the suburban area. Only 2 schools over 500 students, the other school is St. Raymonds.

- Week from tomorrow starts Lent. March 1st – Ash Wednesday. Pushing “Campaign for Kindness”
Reminding children to be kind; started a wall by the chapel where they will put good deeds on the wall. Important in educating whole child.
- Informed a week ago that District 25 had a surplus for non-public schools. SJS will get a couple of thousand dollars. This money was earmarked for Special Education. Mrs. Balogh and Mrs. Jarosz will be working on this.
- SJS began looking for an Educational Technologist. This person will be a coach and resource for the faculty with regards to technology. We will keep you up to date on this.
- High School acceptance letters went out to the 8th Grade students. 8th Grade students *still* have to keep putting forth effort for the remainder of the school year.
- Amazing job to Julie Cohen and Georgiana Spina. Georgiana started Broadway Bulldogs and ran it for a lot of years. SJS was one of the first schools in the area to have a production.

Committee Reports: Carol Mysza

February 2017 - Committee Updates

- **2017 Scholastic Book Fair:** Total Sales: \$10,902.02. 55% given Back to SJS in form of Scholastic Dollars: \$5,535. Books Purchased for Teachers During the Fair: \$1005. Scholastic Dollars Left for School to Spend: \$4,530. Thank you to all of the families and staff members who purchased books at the fair this year! Thank you also to everyone who volunteered to work at the book fair - we couldn't have done it without you and your support is truly appreciated!
- **Magazine Drive:** The Magazine Drive kicked off on February 9th with subscription mail packets going home with all of our students. The kids all watched a presentation given by a representative of Great *American* which explained how the drive works and prizes they could earn based on how many subscriptions they sell within certain timeframes. The first day to turn in orders was last Friday, the 17th and the final turn in day will be this Friday the 24th.
- Subscription orders and renewals can be accessed all year long through www.gaschoolstore.com Please use the SJS code 2500544 to be sure St. James gets credit.

8th Grade Activities

- While it may seem early, planning is already under way for the flurry of graduation activities for our class of 2017.
- The graduation dinner committee has already recruited a large group of 7th grade parents who will host the dinner at the end of May for all of our graduates, their parents and our teachers.
- Hundreds of pictures have been collected from our 8th grade families and the creation of the 8th grade video is underway! This video is always a highlight of the night, as both the kids and parents love taking that trip down memory lane and seeing how everyone has grown and changed so much over the years.
- Planning for the 8th grade May Crowning breakfast will be starting soon.

Updates from committee heads in attendance:

- **Broadway Bulldogs** – Julie and George were phenomenal co producers/directors The show was a huge success and the addition of the Sunday matinee was a great idea and drove ticket sales to over 1,000 tickets sold. Est gross profits of over \$10,000
- **Ladies Night Out** – Theme is “Toast to LNO” playing Bingo this year, 26 tables already in with another 16 they know of still coming Over 120 baskets and plenty of husbands who have volunteered to be wait staff
- **Variety Show** – 34 acts, mainly group acts this year
- **Catholic Schools Week** – Jaclyn Derengowski and Anne Maloney to shadow Kate DiMarco next year
- **Cultural Arts** – Jan Dicola to take over as committee chair next year; working on S.T.E.M. program
- **Artist Awareness:** Lisa Woods
- **Eat N Earns:** Cathy Waltz: Concerns over turn-out;
- **Angels in the Classroom:** Christine Dolecki-Started late this year because of technology paddle raise at Jubilation
- **Box-Tops:** Gina Heuer- waiting for check for \$800; coming in. E-Box-tops.

****We are currently looking to fill the following chair positions for next school year****

-Eat & Earns

-Magazine Drive

-Bank Day

Old Business

- We have received several thank you notes from staff in thanks of our Christmas gifts and our CSW stipends. They are on display. Additionally, PC was proud to provide a \$500 award to the Heart of the School recipient, Jackie Balogh.
- We are so thankful to Kate DiMarco and Sue Doherty for planning the events for Catholic Schools Week. And, our gratitude to Lisa Chu, Bridget Ziebka, Erin McAndrews and Jenna Hartman for coordinating the Variety Show effort. The entire week was filled with fun activities, spirit, and school pride!

New Business

- Mrs. Pappas has provided the stamp of approval for PC to select room parents in the spring for the coming school year. This change will benefit our volunteers by taking advantage of volunteers per grade, not per classroom. In some classes there are several parent volunteers while other classes in the same grade have no volunteers. Using the most accurate enrollment numbers for the '17-'18 school year we will select either four or six room parents and the administration will be able to arrange class lists with two room parents per classroom. All parent volunteers must be current members of Parents' Club. Check the fodder after spring break for information about how to sign up to be a room parent next year.
- Parents' Club is excited to announce our spring garden flag sale! Thank you to Michelle Koclanis for the flag design and Kayo Nakagome for organizing the sale. You'll find information in the fodder and an order form has been sent home.

- At this time we would like to formally create a new committee that will propose options for making best use of our excess Parents' Club funds. The current board members will be members of this committee along with several volunteers.
- Ware thrilled to announce our new board members: Kristen Wentink will serve next year as our Treasurer and Christine Chodil will serve as our Vice President. We're really excited to have these women join us and our effort to maintain the highest standard of providing support to our school! Thank you Kristen and Christine!

Open Forum

Raffle Drawing (February – 4 weeks/4 Fridays)

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| •\$100 winner Pam Carlson | sold by: Luke Carlson |
| •\$25 winner Susan Pesoli | sold by: Luciana Pesoli |
| •\$25 winner Janes Jones | sold by: |
| •\$25 winner Amy Ziolkowski | sold by: Zoe Ziolkowski |
| • \$25 Winner- Norman Gunn | sold by: M. Gunn |

Meeting Adjourned 8:30p **All In Favor**

Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 9:00a.m. in the Laramie Room