

PTO Meeting – April 26, 2017 – Minutes

***Present:** 4 Officers, Mrs. Rex, 2 teachers, 7 parents, 1 student

***Call To Order:** 6:04 p.m. by Sharon

***Opening Prayer:** Mrs. Rex

***Principal's Report:**

-**Recap of Gala** – very successful with a net profit of \$15,873.10 (\$500 being set aside as down payment for next year's event).

-Committee met to personally write thank-you cards.

-Informed group that proposed **summer program** at MD School garnered only 8 – 10 responses from families, therefore this program will, unfortunately, not be held.

Upcoming scheduled events

-By end of this week, an unannounced 'shelter in place' will occur.

-May 3rd, Spaghetti Supper (adopted by PreK and K families)

-May 5th and May 6th, Into the Woods, Jr. play in MD School gym

-hoping for decent crowd, as 300 people can be accommodated

-May 9th, Battle of the Books

-we are splitting cost for transportation of students

-May 11th, Bishop's Mass at 10:00 a.m.

- May 13th, First Holy Communion at Our Lady of the Cross Church

-May 16th, Meteorologist visiting from Western Mass News

-May 18th, Spring Concert in MD School gym

-May 19th, Walk-a-thon

-June 1st, Step Up Day for PK4 to K

-June 6th, students from our sister school in Japan visiting

-June 15th or June 16th, Grade 8 Graduation (Fr. Albert to decide date)

-June 16th, Field Day and BBQ

-June 22nd, expected last day of school (school in session for whole day).

***Old Business:**

-**Road Race Corral** – Lisa Balicki reported more bags checked in than last year, and more MA State Troopers and their dogs present than last year.

- Tip jar placed in gym was full.

- Bonnie Brainard reported that sale of food was down from last year.

- It was commented by a police officer that our Road Race Corral/parking are very well run.

-Jim Wildman very appreciative of what MD School does during the Road Race, and MD School will be in charge of the Road Race Corral for as long as we desire to be.

-Parking in MD parking lot for Road Race garnered \$4,000+ for Endowment Fund, with approximately ½ of the spots paid for by Parade Committee.

-Matt McArdle – idea for next year to sell hamburger, hot dog, beer during Road Race.

-Lisa Balicki suggested working on proposal now, as liquor license procedures for city are different for something like that.

-**Gala** – Nora Moreau and her committee are being encouraged by Log Cabin to book event for next May, as dates are already filling up.

-Committee would still like to work on the issue of a **playground for students**, as they feel they would like to show to those generous people who attended Gala that there is a goal in sight.

-members have been researching various options (basketball court for older students, rock climbing wall with low fall zone, buddy bench, shed that can be locked etc.).

-point made that a goal is to get this up and running to allow older students the opportunity to enjoy the playground, as parents of the older students have spent much time volunteering in various capacities. This suggestion was much appreciated by many of us. Thank you, Nora.

-suggestion by Nora was perhaps designating project in something like Phase 1, Phase 2, Phase 3 time frames.

-Sharon – suggested putting a formal proposal together to present to Fr. Albert, Linda Rex, and the Finance Council, as the decision rests with them.

***New Business:**

-**Year End BBQ** – format will follow past years (burgers, hot dogs, watermelon, etc.).

-PTO provides funds for the lunch only; 7th Grade and Mrs. Forest are responsible for games, however, PTO would certainly support their ideas with funding if asked.

-BBQ Committee Chair? Anyone? Contact school office or one of PTO Officers.

-**Suggestions** - various

-popcorn? Andrea Neill commented kids wait too long in line, or could make ahead of time and hand out cold to students.

-cotton candy machine? Taylor Rental also has cover for it you can rent, which would cut down on mess on person running it.

-freeze pops? They work.

-Mr. Whippy truck, where each child gets one frozen treat?

-All great suggestions (thank you), but can't accommodate all.

-Bonnie B. will contact Nick's Nest soon to check on possibility of donations again of rolls and hot dogs.

-Andrea N. and Beth D. planning on being present at BBQ to help.

-Mrs. Rex – informed us that what was originally a \$3,000 quote for broken exhaust fans in school bathrooms turned into a \$5,000 cost.

-**2017/2018 PTO Officer Nominations** - request for a facilitator.

-Beth Duggan again volunteered (thank you) to contact those nominated.

-much confusion pertaining to nomination format.

-Some parents present stated they never received info last year, or forms were confusing; usually new officers voted in during May meeting, which is last PTO Meeting of year, as we do not meet in June. There was NOT a May meeting last year, as there was no quorum present. A quorum of 15 people present is a voting requirement. Due to this fact, people who were nominated were contacted late in year.

-nomination information will be posted on MD FB page, sent in MD parent email as an attachment by Karen G., and sent via ConnectED message by Mrs. Rex.

This info will also be sent home with students. Parents, please look for nomination forms in your child's backpack.

-vote will take place at the last meeting of the year, May 17th.

***Disbursements:**

- Road Race items not accounted for yet.
- Field trips – no disbursement requests yet.
- Teachers – Art and 5th Grade so far requested reimbursements (Treasurer's Report passed out).

***Miscellaneous Items/Concerns/Suggestions (not on Agenda):**

- at end of meeting, 2 parents brought up that there is a feeling of lack of interaction at meetings.
- Concern - agenda is given, with lack of space to discuss anything but what is on agenda. A suggestion was that there should be 20 minutes of open discussion time at each meeting.
- lack of communication about meetings and events.
 - suggestion of more email blasts, ConnectED phone calls by Mrs. Rex, etc..
 - suggestion of sending home PTO Newsletter earlier than day of meeting.
- agreement on ever-present concern regarding lack of attendance at PTO meetings.
 - efforts to continue to try to get people to attend meetings, which, in turn, would generate a greater knowledge of PTO sponsored events, which contain a host of Chair/committee/volunteer components and opportunities.
- suggestion that as Spaghetti Supper is continuously successful, should be a designated PTO table at event.
- PK 3 teacher gave info that many of her parents would like to sign up to volunteer at various events, but shy away from using the online sign-up genius site.
 - Mrs. Rex – gets phone calls from various parents to volunteer for different events and forwards messages to necessary person.
- Andrea Neill suggested herself to head up a new 'Communications Committee', which would disseminate various pieces of info about events/news via different outlets.

-Eric Wood – Can we do something for core group of women who work in kitchen at each Spaghetti Supper (who have no children/grandchildren in school)? Sharon approved an end-of-year dinner (or something similar), and to put it in as an end-of-year expense.

-Nora Moreau – Is babysitting available for only MD students at PTO meetings?

-Per Mrs. Rex, no. Any child of an adult that is planning to attend the meetings is welcomed. Junior High students are always available for babysitting duties.

-Beth Duggan – The MD School Board is planning on holding a ‘Welcome To MD School’ event sometime in the summer, before the start of the school year.

-All MD School information would be highlighted at this event. Examples could be sports (CYO Basketball), PTO (officers and list of events), uniform info, free breakfast and lunch program, etc...Be on lookout for more info.

-Great way to get people to meet each other.

-This was exactly the way that many of us ‘older’ school parents met each other and got better acquainted in years past, when our oldest children were in Preschool (the year 2005 or even before). Thank you, Beth, for possible bringing something like this back to MD School!

- Suggestion - During 2 Open Houses at school, bring back 8th Grade bake sale, uniform swap, etc., which used to be a much anticipated part of these events (great way for parents to relax, chat, and stay longer than just a quick walk through their child’s classroom).

-Beth Duggan – Marketing Committee asking if PTO could help fund some kind of sign that would help to advertise MD School events? This sign would be placed on corner of sidewalk by MD Church (Corner Lyman and Maple Streets).

-Per Sharon - This will be tabled until next meeting, as we have already budgeted monies towards other things, such as field trips.

*Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m..

****Monthly minutes of PTO Meetings for 2016/2017 can be found under PTO link on the MD School website, www.materdolorosaschool.org. There are no October minutes, as meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum for voting, and no March minutes due to snowstorm cancellation.**

Respectfully submitted by Mary Fedora

