

PTO Meeting minutes – Sept.21, 2016

Present – 21 persons which included Mrs. Rex, Fr. Albert, 4 PTO officers, with the remainder comprised of a combination of 15 parents/grandparents/teachers/aides.

Call to order – 6:04 p.m.

***Opening prayer by Fr. Albert**

***2016/2017 induction of officers by Mrs. Rex**

***Bylaws** – trying to work with them

-meetings to start and end on time

-follow agenda

-sections are timed (see MD PTO News newsletter that issued to students)

-moderator to use gavel to encourage flow of meetings

-explanation of ‘issues list’ – portion of meeting at very end – Sharon stressed that ‘the business of the meetings gets done during the meetings’.

***Treasurer and Secretary Reports** – minutes from the last meeting in May, 2016 sent out via email before the summer; approved; formal Treasurer Report will be forthcoming.

-Sharon noted that PTO ended last year with a balance of approximately \$7,000, which is more of a surplus than we would like.

-most things from last year have been paid

-a few outstanding items haven’t cleared – follow up

***Fr. Albert Welcome** – Big THANK YOU to outgoing President, Lisa Balicki, and outgoing Secretary, Callie Niezgoda – your hard work and dedication is appreciated!

-Welcome to 2 returning officers, Andrea Neill and Robin Rondeau

-Welcome to 2 former officers, Sharon Orr and Mary Fedora

-Welcome to Fr. Andrzej – is already a frequent visitor to MD School classrooms

-Our Lady of the Cross Parish/Mater Dolorosa School Fall Festival- Sat., Oct. 22-Sun., Oct. 23rd

***Principal’s Report/Comments**

-MD School at 211 students, down by approximately 10, with St. Thomas in West Springfield forced to close one of its PK classes, perhaps due to deciding to send their children to St. Mary’s in Westfield, which offers high school on their campus. Logistical choices for a Catholic high school education can affect enrollment.

-MD School is viable, especially considering that some Catholic elementary schools lost 30-50 students across our area.

-All Fusion Science materials have been delivered

-Approx. \$21,000 reimbursed by a grant from the Diocese

-9 air conditioner units at \$400 ea. – rec’d \$2,400 from a parishioner for the rest of the AC installation (thank you).

-\$5,500 spent on purchase of new freezer for school kitchen – freezer was ‘fixed’ last year, but became inoperable last week, so brand new one was a necessity.

***Old Business** – none to report

***Confirm PTO Liaisons for Parish Council & School Board** – Beth Holland-Duggan new Chair of School Board – Welcome, Beth! Liaisons wanted.

***On-Deck Fundraisers/Activities** – Sharon

-MD School PTO looks to support our Parish and school communities

-Spaghetti Suppers – encourage community spirit and team-building

-Adopt a Dinner – new this year – please refer to your MD PTO News for more info

-First Spaghetti Supper in early September was adopted by the 8th Grade – five 8th Grade students volunteered to help take trays and clean up tables

-7th Grade has been assigned to adopt the October Spaghetti Supper

-How do I sign up to volunteer as a parent/grandparent/relative of an MD Student?

We will accept **all** forms of communication. Sign-Up Genius from last year will still be utilized as well, and Andrea Neill, PTO VP, is in charge of that piece.

-SCRIP Program – lots of talk about this gift card program-PTO has relinquished overseeing it

-Andrea Kucucka will oversee it and percentages earned will go towards MD School operating costs – Thank you, Andrea.

-OLOC/MD School Fall Festival Bake Sale Booth

-official drop-off day for baked goods will be Thursday, Oct. 20th for dress down pass

-some question about whether a Friday drop-off day is plausible, as we have a Diocesan In-Service Day (no school on Friday, Oct. 21st);more info to follow

-Need Chairperson – and need help on days of festival manning booth, help with decorating table/area, help with price tags.

****Volunteering at Fall Festival counts as service hours, but no ‘double-dipping’ allowed i.e., any amount of hours you volunteer have to be designated by you as going towards your 5 hour OLOC Parish hours, OR going towards MD School 10 hour service commitment, they cannot be counted twice.**

***Disbursement Requests and Vote**

-Mrs. Rex – would like freezer expense, or portion of it, sponsored by PTO – all our children benefit from the use of it

-an initial amount of \$2,500 towards the freezer was suggested for request to be put on the books – Once a budget for this school year is put into place, vote will take place at October’s meeting to appropriate balance.

-Mrs. Godek – **Battle of the Books**

-5th year

-It is a feather in MD School’s cap

-Being held at MD School in May

-Asking for approx.. \$2,000 to cover costs for our teams

-each school covers their own expenses and pays towards the food

-All books purchased for our teams to back into the school library for use by our students

-Last year lot of good publicity

-Per Sharon, PTO will work the request for this wonderful event into the budget. This will be voted on at the October meeting.

-Mrs. Rex – Wright Flight Program – 2 field trips are part of the program. Would like help from PTO to pay for one of the field trips. This will also be voted on at the October meeting

-Ed Godek – Barnes & Noble Book Fair – on Black Sunday, Nov. 27th – Ed is lead, is looking for co-chair. All funds raised go towards MD School library. Suggestion made to offer a Red Robin day to coincide with the B&N fundraiser day. Looking for someone to spearhead this.

***Closing Prayer – Fr. Albert; Meeting Adjourned before 7 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Mary Fedora, Secretary