

Minutes

St. Ambrose School PTO Board Meeting – 07/24/19
St. Ambrose Parish Hall

Attendance

Father Andrew Fisher
Phil Coady
Mary Helou
Peter Cuenco
Joanna Navarrete
Mallory Holleran
Angela Rowley

Pastor, St. Ambrose Church
President
VP
Treasurer
Secretary
Faculty Representative
Principal

St. Ambrose School Mission Statement:

Fostering a faith-filled and academically strong environment, Saint Ambrose Catholic School works with families and the faith community to encourage the formation of the whole child through the examples and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Opening Prayer

Fr. Fisher led the group in prayer.

President's Report – Philip Coady

- Discussed 25th St Ambrose anniversary t-shirts for Faculty.
- Approved design for logo for anniversary and purchase of anniversary t-shirts for staff to wear on the first day of school as well as spirit days throughout the year
- Parents who have voted for PTO have been approved and to date no declines.
- Phil, Angela and Mary met to go over the school calendar and discuss events throughout the year. We have set aside some dates for events for the first quarter that will be discussed in the VP report.
- Questions received from parents for this meeting:
 - Will there be a hospitality chair this year now that a new DRE is in place? Yes, we have a parent volunteer for hospitality. We are in process of updating the hospitality binder instructions and will work with the new DRE to modify if needed.
 - Will there be a Gala this year, and are there any plans to change the format? Yes, we are planning to hold the gala as this is the school's 25th anniversary year. We need a Gala Chair and volunteers for the various committees. PTO to discuss an overall vision and plan for the Gala in order to kickoff recruitment efforts
 - Will the year end survey results be shared with parents? Yes, Principal Rowley will send out an email with the results.

Treasurer's Report – Peter Cuenco

- Proposed and approved 4K LED 65" SmartTV over projector, to have an easier transition within programs for Art and Science visual and audio presentations.
- 15 new Kindles were purchased using proceeds from last year's Gala.
- Working with Manus Dei, we will look to replace 2-3 classroom active panels for and forward. (Additional detail below in Principal's Report).
- We have 3 sets of laptops schoolwide and are currently working with Manus Dei to explore options to replace older/broken units using proceeds from last year's gala. In addition, we are working with Dell to explore their school laptop program and various options. Once the best option is determined, we will move forward with laptop replacement. (Additional detail below in Principal's Report).

Principal's Report – Angela Rowley

A meeting was held between the Computer teacher, Resource teacher, Principal Rowley and the new Account Manager from Manus Dei (the technology support company that we use) to discuss technology needs that would enhance instruction across the curricula. The goal is to ultimately replace our Active Boards with Active Panels that would encourage greater student engagement. A detailed inventory of laptops was performed and we are looking to replace a few that are not operating at maximum efficiency.

Using proceeds from last year's Gala, we have purchased a subscription to Learning Ally – a program that has digital books that can be primarily used for struggling readers, but is available to all teachers for use in the classroom. This will be especially useful in Resource. We have also added fifteen Kindle Fires to our inventory, making a full classroom set that can be checked out by teachers.

- Integrating new reading resource: Epic, which teachers can subscribe to for free, which allows access to digital books for classroom use.
- Introducing a new curriculum for 'Computer Class' that will focus on the basics of computer skills.
- We still would love help with our contest of enrollment! Please share with other families.
- Introduction of Mallery Holleran as the new Resource teacher. She is working with Maria May to provide a smooth transition.

VP Report – Mary Helou

- Discussed the St. Ambrose K-2 Summer Picnic & Playdate went well and had great feedback, even though a small turn out as many families were away.
- Room Parents – we are still in need of room parents for many grades. A follow up request will be sent out and a meeting will be setup with those who signed up in August to go over duties
- We will introduce our new St. Ambrose Newsletter that should go out in the Wednesday folder once a month. A draft was provided to the PTO for review and discussion. Meeting minutes will be included in the newsletter going forward as well as a calendar of upcoming events.
- Volunteers: We are adding a volunteer position this year for Social Media Coordinator so that we can have someone manage our social media presence. Signup sheets and a table for most volunteer positions will be prepared and ready for the Ice Cream Social and Kindergarten and New Family Orientation.
- We have arranged a Virtus training class at St. Ambrose on September 12 to allow parents to get certified at the beginning of the school year and enable them to volunteer..
- Gala: We need a Gala Chair and volunteers for the various committees needed to operate the Gala. PTO to discuss an overall vision and plan for the Gala in order to kickoff recruitment efforts
- Fall Events: we are planning to add restaurant nights as both, social events and fundraisers to the roster. In addition, we will be adding a Family Movie Night in September and are exploring the addition of a Fall Festival/Chili Cook-Of Concept in October. We will work to refine plans and budget for these events and report on progress for the next meeting.
- We would like to have volunteer that could manage all social media aspects.

Secretary's Report – Joanna Navarrete

- A possible alternative to Class Dojo was introduced to the PTO. The Bloomz app provides the same messaging capability as Dojo, but also allows parents to message each other. In addition, it has calendar functionality and signup functions that could be used to replace signup genius. Principal Rowley and Ms. Holleran to review this new app and explore the possibility of introducing it at St. Ambrose.

Fr. Fisher

- Introduction of Fr. Bergida to the PTO. Fr. Bergida was very active in the school at his last parish and looks forward to working with the school and PTO this year. He will be teaching religion classes along with Fr. Fisher during the school day.
- Make the PTO meetings more visible for many to attend.
- Improve our bridge of communication between the parish, school and families.
- We will be sharing our Minutes with the parish for better connection of both, school community via email, the new Newsletter and online to promote communication within the community.
- Angela will be speaking after all masses on August. The PTO will explore the possibility of having a table outside of church to welcome and greet families and chat after each mass.
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Next Meeting – Scheduled for Monday, August 19th

Meeting Adjourned