

Minutes

St. Ambrose School PTO Board Meeting – 09/20/18
St. Ambrose School Library

Attendance

Angela Rowley	Principal
Marion Gravis	President
Phil Coady	Vice President
Kati Krueger	Treasurer
Mary Helou	Secretary/Assemblies
Cindy Hollcraft	Service Chair
Eileen Bliss	Social Committee Co-Chair

Absent

Sharon Driscoll	Gala Chair
Michelle Robbins	Social Committee Co-Chair
Heather Terreri	Social Committee Co-Chair
Father Andrew Fisher	Pastor, St. Ambrose Church
Mallory Holleran	Faculty Representative

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 & Introductions

Principal Rowley led the group in prayer.

Approve Minutes

Motion made to approved Minutes from August. All in Favor. August Minutes approved.

Assemblies Discussion/Secretary's Report – Mary Helou

- Mary has researched the various assembly materials that have been sent to the school from multiple companies. The average cost for one assembly ranges from \$700-\$1,200. Discussion about revising the assemblies' budget to accommodate the increase in cost of assemblies based on research findings.
- We may want to approach sister schools to determine interest in particular assemblies. We may be able to negotiate a discount if a particular company/group books multiple performances (in a close area) as opposed to only 1 performance. Principal Rowley suggested that we contact Queen of Apostles and St. Michaels. Suggestion to explore this option as it relates to bringing a science/STEM themed assembly as those are more costly.
- Information about a local theater company was presented. They offer a 45 minute performance that is suitable for all grades and are willing to conduct a 1 hour physical comedy workshop with

grades 6-8. Additional information will be submitted to the group for review and consideration with a vote to follow.

Other items:

- Discussion regarding volunteer positions and the need for a volunteer coordinator. Mary shared materials that were distributed to room parents in years past. Phil is going to distribute these materials to room parents and serve in this role.

Treasurer's Report – Kati Krueger

- Kati reviewed the PTO budget for the 2018/2019 school year. Discussion centered around the highlighted items listed below.
- Income is already being generated from PTO dues and credits from Amazon purchases
- Teacher Start Up funds – teachers have begun submitting receipts for reimbursement.
 - Start-Up Funds for Specials teachers will be available throughout the year.
- Teacher Development and Training
 - Discussion included exploring a change to the criteria with the aim of providing financial assistance to promote staff retention.
 - Many teachers will require recertification credits this year. Title II funds may be used for professional development, but not for recertification. The Virginia Catholic Education Association requires recertification on a more frequent basis than the state of Virginia.
 - It was discussed that we may want to explore a continuing education tuition support program for faculty that includes a defined time commitment in exchange for financial support. Principal Rowley will check to see if this is an option or if this is in conflict with existing teacher contracts.
- Teacher Appreciation – Kati and Phil obtained data on distribution of teacher bonuses and presented to the group. We will try to gauge what is more helpful for teachers – increased bonuses or increased training support funds.
- Fundraisers – Student Art fundraiser will be replaced with Spirit Wear.
- Kati reviewed revisions to the proposed budget for the year based on the meetings discussions. Motion to approve changes. Motion carried.

Service Chair's Report – Cindy Hollcraft

Upcoming Service projects include:

- St. Lucy Food Drive – October 27-28 (dates to coincide with the parish)
 - A flyer will be sent home in the Wednesday folders on 10/17
 - Boxes will be available so that students can bring donations to class
- Coat Drive – scheduled for late October/November. Final dates TBD

Other items include:

- Sending home a monthly flyer with service ideas for children and families to do at home and in the community
- Affirmation Jar Project – based on the number of jars requested by Catholic Charities, Principal Rowley suggested we give this project to the 7-8th Grade Leadership & Service Club

Social Committee – Eileen Bliss

Upcoming social events include:

- Great Wine and Great Times Wine Tasting Event – October 13th
 - Handouts are being distributed in Wednesday folders, link and story in The Buzz
 - Tickets will be sold after Mass on 9/29 and flyers will be included in the church bulletin
- Trunk or Treat – October 26 (Friday, no school that day)

Other items include:

- Class Social for K-2 – date TBD pending finalization of room parents, as they will be critical in organization and outreach for this event.

Principal's Report – Angela Rowley

- Room Parents – some openings remain. Principal Rowley will send an email to parents to solicit room parents for the grades that still have openings.
- The Volunteer Sign Up Genius has been setup and is live.
- Gala Update – Sharon Driscoll is working closely with Trish Konczal on the Gala. The interest meeting was successful and had 10 attendees with others who did not attend, but have signed up to assist. Sharon has mini fundraisers planned to kick off Gala activities and to raise funds to be used to defer the costs of the Gala.
- Friday 10/26 – no school, faculty and staff are going on a retreat to the Elizabeth Seton shrine. No issues with holding Trunk or Treat on this date.
- Demolition may begin on the rectory by November. More information forthcoming as details are finalized and provided by Fr. Fisher.
- Older grades have created a new Leadership and Service Club that is being led by Seniors Cummins. Students are excited about this new opportunity and have expressed a great deal of interest
- The middle school dance is coming up. Our 8th grade students have asked to take an active role in the production of this event. They have created committees for lighting, décor and food and have exhibited a great deal of responsibility and maturity in this effort.

Next Meeting – October 18, 2018