

St. Bernadette PTO Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2017; St. Bernadette School Cafeteria

Meeting called to order at 7:08 pm. Officers present: President Kelly Brokamp, Treasurer Vanessa Hartman, Secretary Christina Boss, Member-at-Large Julie Schultz, Member-at-Large Julie Tipton. Opening prayer was led by Christina Boss.

Principal's Update:

- Mrs. Ingram is working with student council on the upcoming food drive.
- Some bullying issues have come up recently. Mrs. Ingram is investigating how to better educate about bullying behavior. What kind of programs would be helpful for parents? Should cyber safety training also be part of this initiative? When/how would parents be most likely to participate? In-person evening meeting, skype, recorded webinar?
- Ronald McDonald is visiting the school tomorrow.
- The 4th and 5th grades will be going on a field trip to see CSO in late November.
- Magazine Drive: In reviewing statistics from the magazine drive, 54% of the students participated, and the school still exceeded our goal. How do we encourage even more to participate? Some suggestions were to better advertise some of the variety of goods available through Great American other than the magazines. Examples are cookie dough, pies, Christmas cards, etc. These can be viewed and purchased on the website. Orders and donations are still coming in for this fundraiser, and will continue to throughout the school year.
- Constant Contact update: Mrs. Ingram is trying out a trial version and has been happy with many of its features. Purchasing this system will give the newsletters a polished look with easy access to links and forms. Many schools and businesses use this program to stay in touch with their base. It is user friendly and easy to unsubscribe if someone does not want to receive. It will cost \$168/year and someone has volunteered to work on it. PTO will purchase a subscription for the school. Mrs. Ingram anticipates the newsletter will transition to Constant Contact by Christmas. Other PTO attendees noted several things they like about this program. An upgraded version (for 50% more cost) would also allow for surveys, event registration, and online payment using PayPal. These upgrades can be frozen any time when they are not needed and the service would go back to the lower price with no penalty fees.
- Mrs. Ingram mentioned that Gradelink has an online enrollment module (Enroll Me) that would greatly reduce the time it takes to manually enter the annual registration paperwork. It would also save families time in filling out paper forms. The cost of the module would be \$1006 for the first year.

Volunteer Opportunities/Updates:

- Samantha Storer gave an update for the Craft Show, which is scheduled on Saturday 11/18 from 9:00-3:00. There are currently 30 vendors registered, there are 10 remaining spots available. Volunteers are needed for setup Friday night and also during the craft fair on Saturday. There is a signup Genius attached to the newsletter to sign up for volunteer slots. She's trying to develop an incentive for attendees to go to both the St. Bernadette and St. Thomas More craft fairs, which occur the same day. It would be a punch card that if attendees show they attended both fairs, they would be entered in a raffle.
- Kelly Brokamp mentioned that there are 3 Marco's pizza days scheduled for the rest of the school year. They will be on 12/7, 2/2 and 4/19. Jen Pikal will coordinate the Marco's nights. The school gets 20% of the sales all day long on these days. Mention St. Bernadette and your child's class when ordering.
- SantaLand has been discontinued. There is no one to run it anymore, and our in-house connection no longer has a child at our school.

Treasurer's Update:

- Magazine sales have made \$6200 in profit so far. The spinner competition/Deal-or-No-Deal will be will be 11/20 and the limo ride is 12/20.
- The 8th grade has already raised over \$2000 through their fundraisers, which includes the Chipotle night, Boo-grams, two bake sales, and a car wash. They have a Spaghetti Dinner coming up on Sunday 11/19 from 5-7.
- The wine social made \$3629, which will be split between PTO and Boosters.

Secretary Update:

- The September boxtops collection totaled \$200. The school will receive the next check in December for the amount of \$406. The next collection will be in late November or early December and will be announced soon. Some marketing materials will be developed to encourage participation.

- The Directory is completed and a draft was brought to the meeting for attendees to review and provide corrections. It will be printed soon. Mrs. Ingram noted that it would be helpful to complete the directory earlier in the school year for the benefit of the families.

New Business/Community Input:

- Someone asked if it was necessary to bring food to the family bowling event. Some attendees received a request to bring food to the event, but it is purely voluntary. The kids enjoy having snacks during this event. 152 people are registered to attend!
- Kelly Brokamp reviewed suggestions received about the mother/son event survey. Some people like the mother/son dance format, and there were several suggestions for an alternative event.
- Mr. Brunner demonstrated 3-D pens that he requested PTO purchase for the school. He explained how they work and how he would use them in his classroom. They would be available for other classes to use too. He is requesting 24 pens and USB docking stations. He would provide the plastic filament. The PTO Board will consider whether to fund this request.
- Mrs. Ell submitted a request that PTO purchase a Cricket for the school (to make bulletin board letters). Carla Tribble offered to donate her gently used one to the school.
- The annual cookie exchange will tentatively be Saturday 12/9. Carla Tribble will request space for this event.

Meeting adjourned 8:44. Minutes submitted by Christina Boss.

The minutes from the September 2017 meeting were approved by the Board and have been posted on the PTO website.