

## **St. Bernadette PTO Meeting Minutes**

### **September 14, 2017; St. Bernadette School Cafeteria**

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Meeting called to order at 7:07 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 provided an update on the OCSAA goals. The preliminary report is due in the spring. The focus continues to be encouraging the students to have a growth mindset and teaching Catholic virtues. Part of this program includes Virtues in Practice, about which some students have brought home information. It is a curriculum that focuses on different themes and saints who exemplify specific virtues, and is a three-year cycle that grows with the students. A handout was provided that outlined the saints and themes for each year, for each age group. Some of the work is to be done at home with the family. Mrs. Ingram asked for input about whether an information night for parents would be helpful to better understand the program and expectations. There was interest in having this information session.
- Faculty members are being offered training on mental health issues for students. Serious mental health problems are developing at younger ages nationwide and it is important for education providers to be able to recognize warning signs and know when and how to reach out.
- Mrs. Mattei will advise a group of students to coordinate a school newspaper, the St. Bernadette Gazette.
- Mr. Brunner will coordinate a computer club.
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade is experiencing some growing pains with work load, book loads and switching classes. Another current challenge the school is experiencing is accommodating the larger 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade group during lunch. There are 80 students in the cafeteria at this time, which is a challenging number of students to have all at once in that space. Mrs. Ingram is trying to think of ways to alleviate the situation.

#### **President's Update:**

- Kelly Brokamp went over several updates and opportunities to volunteer. These include cafeteria, recess and library help.
- Logan Minning needs help with ideas for the kids Halloween party this year. The event cannot be held without enough volunteers. One idea was to have booths, each operated by a classroom. Classroom coordinators could be responsible for getting families to volunteer to run the booth for 20 to 30 minutes at a time so they could still enjoy time with their family at the event. Booths would be simple games, maybe with a theme. There would be a small entry fee to pay for candy and game prizes. The kids party is scheduled for October 22 from 2-4pm.
- Someone is needed to organize Marco's pizza night to benefit the school. 20% of the profits from each Marco's night are donated to the school. The class that orders the most pizzas each St. B Marco's night gets a free pizza party. Last year, there were three Marco's nights. The organizer would be responsible for coordinating the event, getting the word out to the school (e.g. flyers), contacting and following up with Marco's about scheduling the night and collecting the money for the school.
- Teacher appreciation needs volunteers. Teacher Appreciation typically involves providing food or drinks for the teachers on certain days during the year. The next opportunity to help with this will be lunch for the teachers on the early release day, October 6. Help will also be needed on the teacher conference nights, October 18 and 19. Chipotle will be provided to the teachers during the conference nights, but it's also nice to have some homemade soups and desserts for the teachers. Contact Kelly Brokamp or Beth Hoyt to be added to the email list to help.
- Melissa Millinovich was able to "buy" several playground supplies through the Campbell's Soup Labels program. She bought sidewalk chalk, balls, jump ropes, etc.
- Sarah Holland announced a plan for a new Preschool fundraiser. The preschool is going to collect bottle caps to make two children's size picnic tables. One will be for the preschool and the other will be donated to another school in need. They will have a fundraiser to pay for the picnic tables, possibly a penny fundraiser. Each table will need 400 lbs of bottle caps and costs ~\$300 to make.
- The wine social will be 11/4, along with the raffle.
- The craft show will be on 11/18, the same day as St. Thomas More. This worked out well last year, and was planned with their agreement. Rachel Clark will coordinate it. Volunteers are needed for concessions, help loading and unloading the vendors, etc. A flyer will be sent out soon.

#### **Treasurer's Update:**

- Vanessa Hartman provided a handout summarizing the 2016-2017 school year PTO expenses and fundraisers.
- She reported that the magazine drive from last school year earned \$8708. The profits continue to increase significantly each year with this fundraiser.

**Box Tops Update:** Christina Boss announced that the first Boxtops collection event will be held during National Boxtops week, the week of September 25. Boxtops will be collected from the classrooms on Friday, September 29. An email and flyer will go out next week announcing the collection. Families can send in boxtops to classrooms anytime during the year. There will be four collections

again this year. A new Boxtops app may help the school collect more money. It's called the Boxtops for Education Bonus App and it's free to download. When you buy Boxtops bonus products, you scan your receipt using the app and additional money is credited towards the school of your choice. This money is in addition to the traditional Boxtops clippings. More information about how to use it will go out with the email next week.

**New Business/Community Input:**

- Has the school considered other fundraising opportunities? For example, chocolate bar sales or coupon books? Past fundraisers were brought up. The PTO is open to new fundraisers if someone is willing to do the research and work to get them going.
- One way to make some money for the parish (which helps support the school) is to set up your Kroger card to benefit St. Bernadette. When you do your regular grocery shopping, Kroger will donate money to St. B. This has to be renewed each year, and there is little warning when it is going to expire.
- Sarah Holland will send out information about how to sign up for the Remind app to get school related text messages.
- Some parents shared that it would be helpful to hear about volunteer opportunities, more often and through a variety of outlets. More notice is helpful too so they can arrange for childcare if needed.
- Meijer and Sam's are offering a free book for your school when you buy Kellogg's products.

**Meeting adjourned 8:25. Minutes submitted by Christina Boss.**

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