

## St. Bernadette PTO Meeting Minutes October 10, 2024; School Cafeteria

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Meeting called to order at 7:06 pm. Officers present: President Ashley White, Vice President Annie Antle, Treasurer Tiffany Sentman, Secretary Denise Byrum, Member at Large Jessica Benkelmann, Social Event Coordinator Jennifer Harris. Opening prayer led by Denise Byrum.

### **Principal's Report (Mrs. Ingram):**

**Teacher Inservice:** Went well on Friday, 9/27 to discuss faith and design thinking (STEM and project concepts) to teaching. Adding Language Arts to build creative thinking. Looking toward to adding social studies and specials in future years.

**Nexplore Classes:** After school programs starting, programs for Robocoding (Grades K-2), Build a bot (Grades 3-5), Improv drama (Grades 5-8). Small classes run 3:10-4:10 once a week for 9 classes. Proving that the 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractor works out well.

**Student Council:** 6 members this year. Will announce winners via email. Meet soon to discuss fundraising.

**Business meeting:** St Thomas More and St Bernadette to look at charging for true cost of education, but not to over-price.

**Kindergarten cutoff:** West Clermont changed from August 1 to Sept 30. State is Sept 30. Thomas More and St. Veronica are changing. Data from Mrs. Ingram shows that the younger students have not had issues adapting to K. Parents like early to save daycare fees, but many hold back due to sports. Good marketing tool to keep St. B at Sept 30 for those who do not meet the cutoff for other schools but are ready for K. Parents can choose to hold back students for another year or send ahead based on student maturity. Decided to keep at Sept 30 for St B.

**Mental Health:** Catalyst Counseling 3<sup>rd</sup> party. Parents can use and charge health insurance or private pay. Therapist in the building. Telehealth through Hazel Health, but better to be in person and part of the community. Would need to get Archdiocese approval and confidentiality paperwork in place.

**EdChoice:** Mrs. Ingram has help from Jessica Lebar.

**Website:** Updating and taking new photos on playground as best as possible.

**Phone:** Not in classrooms. Direct 911 response and walkie talkies. Teacher lounge phone is broken. This will be given to the Safety committee to look at.

### **Updates/Volunteer Opportunities:**

#### **Social events:**

- Grandparents Day: Great turnout of 175. Everyone looked happy. Church had standing room only with crowded classrooms. Many great comments.
- Halloween party, very few RSVP'ed. Email to all for Oct 19 party. Inside trick or treat stations versus trunk or treat. Costume contest, DJ.

**Fall Fundraiser (Annie Antle):** Donations for School air conditioning needs. Online gross \$27,124 and \$12,764 for items. \$4160 cash/check. Only get 40% for the items and 70% of the direct donations when going through the company. Gross, will be less after cost of the prizes at about \$17,000. Probably need a refresh because the items are similar to prior years. Will need volunteers when the items come in to sort and help individuals pick up. Gym or art room are available for the items to be stored/sorted.

**New Fundraisers:** Own items to sell hard, time consuming. Third party simplifies with no inventory needed. Not allowed to use Venmo. Options suggested included mums, plants, candy bars, flower sale, Larosas Buddy cards, bedsheets, spaghetti dinner.

### **New Business/Community Input:**

**Walkathon (Jessica Benkelmann):** need vote to not use the 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor due to the cost of using their services. Need about 20 volunteers, cash/check donations, new link for picking St. Bernadette as donation. Color run or something else, change to bubbles. Kids could detour the chalk if they want or have an allergic reaction. Will get student input and assistance. May be allowed to use Square in lieu of Venmo for payment. Walkathon will be on May 16.

**Laminator:** Came in and teachers are excited to use.

**PTO Refresh:** PTO put in snacks and décor for the teacher's lounge.

**Next PTO meeting:** November in person. Cancelling the December meeting.

**Meeting adjourned 8:22pm. Minutes submitted by Denise Byrum. Becky Hodges won the gift card. Students represented by someone who attended the meeting will receive an out of uniform day pass for next Thursday.**