

**Minutes from Home & School (H&S) Meeting**

**November 8, 2023**

**Library**

Meeting began at 6:00 p.m.

**Attendees:**

<b>2022/2023 Home &amp; School Board</b>		<b>Teachers/Staff</b>	
<b>President:</b> Melissa Nelson	x		
<b>President-Elect:</b> Julie Rosales	x	Danielle Behnke	x
<b>Ex-Officio:</b> Denise Howell	x	Katie Selden (Principal)	x
<b>Secretary:</b> Alicia Gieck	X		
<b>Treasurer:</b> Marie Morlok	x		
<b>Treasurer Elect:</b> Becky Burke	x		
<b>Room Parent Co-Chairs:</b> Andrea Reilly	x		
<b>Room Parent Co-Chairs:</b> Cassandra Berneking	x		
<b>Volunteer Co-Chairs:</b> Jill Tandy		<b>Community/Committee Chairs</b>	
<b>Volunteer Co-Chairs:</b> Maria Stopulos		Katy Frega	x
<b>Hospitality Coordinators:</b> Megan Wilkinson	x	Brooke Heckinger (Keeper of the Knowledge)	x
<b>Hospitality Coordinators:</b> Ashley Winters-Ramos	x	Betsy Flaherty	x
<b>Hospitality Coordinators:</b> Erin Crigger	x		
<b>Hospitality Coordinators:</b> Ellie Kretschmer			
<b>Hospitality Coordinators:</b> Becca Armstrong			
<b>Hospitality Coordinators:</b> Alex Bauer	x		
<b>New Family Ambassadors:</b> Jen Foley	x		
<b>New Family Ambassadors:</b> Bronya Conner	x		

Newsletter: Alison Meier	x		
Publicity: Megan Stopulos			

Agenda can be found here: NONE.

Don't judge; life happens. However, the theme for the meeting was "WE DON'T HAVE MONEY." See Treasurer report, herein.

Approval for November 8, 2023 minutes can be found: [Here](#)

Old Business:

- Linda Moser has volunteers for Bingo! Thank you to those volunteers who make all of our events run! No word on when Bingo will be held. We really hope Kris can be flexible with the dates for the Pinewood Derby, but that remains to be seen.
- Fundraising – Day of Awesomeness. This has **not** been awesome. The kick off did not happen as planned. You may be asking yourself "Does our school have enough Awesome without our Day of Awesomeness?" Yes, yes we do. What we don't have is enough money to fund H&S for the year.

Issues that have prevented this fundraiser from going off the way it was initially planned involve the fundraising for the capital campaign for the new school, timing and concerns about interfering with Starry Night, the concern of a small payout (although it was noted that other schools in SCCS do this to great success), and the approval of SCCS. SCCS has given approval for this fundraiser this year; however, should it actually occur, we should not expect it to be more than a one-time thing.

A thank you needs to go out to Denise Howell and Megan Stopulos who have worked tirelessly on this fundraiser.

- Many questions surround Trivia Night.
  - Are we having it?
  - Who is going to organize it?
  - When could it possibly be scheduled?
  - Could we possibly provide childcare for Trivia and Bingo to enable families with younger children to attend? This (very good) idea raised more questions:
    - Who would babysit? Likely the middle schoolers for volunteer hours.
    - Who would supervise the middle schoolers?
    - Would we charge for this? How much?
    - What would the kids do?

■ Oh my!!

- Cookies for a Cause
  - Order forms would go out November 13-26 and cookies would be delivered to the school for distribution on December 8.
  - We get \$5 per box, so order early and often. Cookies can be frozen!!
  
- Holiday/Birthday Gifts for Teachers
  - It has been decided by SCCS that H&S CANNOT provide the teachers/staff with gift cards due to taxation issues. This will be consistent amongst all the schools.
  - **To be clear, while gift cards cannot be provided to teachers/staff from H&S funds, individual parents/families are able (and welcome to) purchase gift cards for whomever they want.**
  - Once again, nothing was affirmatively decided, however, Hospitality is working on a few things for Christmas

Treasurer Report (More or less a repeat from last month):

- WE HAVE NO MONEY. Well, we have \$654. However, Marie Morlock cautioned that there are outstanding expenses, so we don't even really have \$654.
- Currently, SCCS is "fronting" money for Lourdes H&S BECAUSE WE HAVE NO MONEY. We will have to pay this back by the end of the school year.
- We are crossing our fingers that the funds from Starry Night will enable H&S to repay SCCS for our expenses this year, and fund next year. (Bon Jovi's "Living on a Prayer" is playing in my head as I type this. You're welcome.)
- As has been noted, Lourdes' H&S finances were being handled differently from the other schools' H&S finances. This has put us at an incredible disadvantage in the transition to SCCS. However, with the new model, Lourdes' H&S finances should recover just in time for the financial pressures of the move to St. Joan of Arc to hit.
- H&S earned approximately \$300 from the school supply sale at the beginning of the school year; that money is expected in November.
- Marie very professionally pointed out that tracking the credit card purchases is a nightmare. Marie and Principal Selden will meet to make the process easier and more streamlined. But seriously, people, do our Treasurer a favor and give her receipts.

New Business:

- Capital Campaign:

- **School participation in the capital campaign is LOW—less than 10%**
  - **School families are vital to the success of the campaign.**  
Conversations need to happen.
  - Commitment weekend will be December 3&4. The campaign needs to have **\$15-\$25 million** committed to move forward with the plan AS IS. Otherwise difficult decisions need to be made regarding cuts to the project.
  - Currently, \$13.9 (ish) million has been raised.
  - During this discussion, it became clear that we need to differentiate the capital campaign and its goal and needs from H&S.
  - Principal Selden has already thought ahead to ways to introduce H&S, its mission, and its needs to parents next year at Curriculum Night.
  - However, H&S needs to communicate clearly about what it is we do for the school, the students, the teachers and staff at Lourdes—and where we get our funds (or lack thereof as we currently have NO MONEY).
- Principal Selden wanted to ask people to make sure that the Parish office gets notified of dates for events. There is a need to have a complete calendar of events for the buildings.
  - Andrea Reilly is ready for St. Nick’s Shop. The middle schoolers will help wrap presents. The shop will be set up for “shoppers” during the first week of December.

### Committee Updates

- New Family Ambassador
  - No report, so clearly things are going fantastic
- Volunteer Coordinators
  - No report. However, from experience we know that volunteers are always needed and appreciated!
  - Make sure to use the link in the monthly newsletter for volunteer opportunities.
- Room Parents
  - See above re Birthday/Christmas gift.
  - Also see above regarding no decisions made
- Hospitality:
  - Hospitality is already working on Christmas and is planning on a breakfast for the teachers/staff, decorating, and a teacher gift.. And it’s only November 8th!

Apparently, I was the one dragging that committee down.

- Teacher Update from Mrs. Behnke:
  - Ashley Ramos and Erin Crigger put together a taco bar (TACOS!!) for the teachers for report card day. This was a big hit and the teachers expressed their gratitude.
  
- Newsletter:
  - Continued awesome job, Alison! Great resource.
  - Please think through what's in your committee responsibilities and volunteer needs for the month and update Alison Meier if you need something in the newsletter for the next month.
  - Timing of the distribution is as follows: Monday – Principal Post; Tuesday – Newsletter
  
- The next meeting for H&S will be December 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. This will be a working meeting (historically it has not been). However, please feel free to bring snacks to share.

Meeting ended at 7:15 p.m. (Great job with that, Melissa!)