ST. MARY'S SCHOOL - PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Time: 7:00 PM
Date: September 15, 2026
Location: Religion & Prayer Room, St. Mary's School

IN ATTENDANCE

10 individuals were in attendance.

- Troy Sladek, *Principal*
- Ashley Goche, *Chairperson*
- Sara Beattie, *Secretary*
- Anna Petro
- Amanda Volesky
- Allison Rohlof
- Brooke Sievers
- Auna Sigdahl
- Alexis Berndt
- Katie Rentschler

OPENING

The meeting began at 7:00 PM with prayer.

OLD BUSINESS

- Review Past Events
    - Casey's Amusement Park
        - Attendance: 22 kids + siblings/parents
        - Overall went well!
            - Table was good to have so people had a place to check in (snacks/nametags).
            - Families bought their own tickets.
        - Not opposed to doing this again for the "back to school" event, but may explore other options next year just for something different.
    - Kindergarten Coffee & Cookies Connection (during kindergarten meetings) – 8/27
        - Great idea and well received. Estimated 35-40 attendees between the 2 sessions (most families). Many existing and new families attended while their kindergartener was doing their orientation day with their teacher.
            - We will plan to do it again next year. Minimal time commitment and strong benefit for family connections.
            - Coffee and cookies were good to offer as a snack/treat during the event.

NEW BUSINESS

- Future Events
    - Fall Welcome-Back picnic (9/22) – 6pm
        - Ashley has a Sign Up Genius that went out for volunteers.
            - Menu: hotdogs/buns, carrots, chips, cookies
        - Hilltop Rental agreed to donate chairs, grill, tables for free
            - Troy will pick up the grill that afternoon.
        - Eldens also gives a great discount and works with their vendors to help reduce the food costs.
            - Coordinate a "thank you" card to send to Hilltop and Eldens. Anna Petro will help Ashley coordinate this and get the kids to sign it.
        - Request Father Matthew to do prayer before the meal at the event.
    - Adopt-A-Highway Ditch Cleanup (10/6 @ 4pm)
        - Flyer will go out the week after the picnic. Sara coordinating.

        - Good Marathon-of-Service option, so encourage participation. Many hands make light work!
    - Halloween Party (10/23)
        - Alexis Berndt is coordinating this year along with Amanda Volesky and Dawn Brittain. Brooke Sievers volunteered to help as well.
            - Takes a lot of work, so need lots of volunteers.
                - Need volunteer list sent out soon. Sign Up Genius will get sent out w/in the next week.
                - Need donations (trying to avoid junk/candy). If anyone have ideas, please let the Halloween committee know.
            - Sara will work on creating a flyer. Send to Ashley and Alexis to review, and get sent out in the next week.
            - Tony will MC at the event again.
    - Teacher Conference Meals (11/19 & 11/20)
        - Amanda will help coordinate with Troy to determine how much/what food we need. Ashley will help send out the communication from JMC since she has the PAC account login.
    - Teacher Christmas Wish List (Nov.)
        - Get lists from teachers … Amazon lists or item/gift card requests, etc.
            - Gather lists and send the correspondence out to parents.
                - Send out prior to Black Friday.
                - Allyson can check with Dawn Jansen to see if she wants to do it again.
                    - Ashley will help with correspondence.
    - Teacher Treats
        - Katie Rentschler already volunteered to help with this. She'll send out a link to sign up for date.
            - We'll get volunteer signup sheets from the parent meetings as well and check with those parents first.

OPEN ITEMS / NEW IDEAS

- Google Drive – increase usage
    - It's worth sending message to reminder people of this (especially new families).
        - Add notification/code to principals passage.
        - Add a link on the JMC app and/or school website.
            - Ashley will send this request to Brenda to see where/if we can add that.
        - Sara to create QR code / printed image to put on tables at the picnic and other events to submit pictures for Google Drive.
- Utilize an events tab to list all upcoming events with a "save the date" on school website/resources.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- There is a PepFest on Friday (9/18) at 10:30 for homecoming for the students. Parents should be aware that the homecoming parade route is changing; staging starts at 4th avenue. Pickup time is going to be very busy in the area given all of that traffic nearby on that day. St. Mary's will have float near the beginning of the parade.
- MAP Testing is going to begin next week; window runs through 10/2. Reading assessments going on right now.
- 9/23 is a planned 2 hour late start for the district. We start our normal 8:15am timeframe.
- 10/2 is the annual pet blessing at 2:30pm.
- 10/9 is grandparents day. Parents will be asked to bring cookies again for the event.
- Kid Kare support assistant – we have an open position. Please continue to help spread the word that we are looking for another person to help support the staff.
- On Friday 9/18, 5th and 6th graders start building a canoe from scratch. Urban Wilderness is coming up … project runs from Friday to Friday. The class are heading up to Long Lake to an environmental camp (3 days, 2 nights). The canoe will be for sale as the 6th grade project at The Gathering this spring.

- Safety Protocols were revamped over the summer based on the I Love You Guys Foundation. Training was done in August with the whole campus here at St. Mary's.
- Appreciate everyone's patience with the JMC transition! This new parent app can be used for absentee reports (cuts phone calls down). JMC can automatically call to check in if kids not in school too. Conference schedules are also done on there, and payments are made on there as well. This allows the school to have multiple ways to get ahold of parents too (calls, emails, texts). Text piece will be used quite heavily, and calls will be saved for more important things. He's received multiple inquiries on a parent directory, which is missing, but they don't plan on publish it to ensure privacy. Parents should note that they can adjust their notification preferences in the app (email vs text vs both).

FUTURE MEETING DATES

The location is TBD and will be announced prior to the meeting date. All meetings begin at 7pm. Meeting dates are as follows:

- October 13th
- January 12th
- March 9th

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Beattie