

St. Mary's TPO Minutes
Wednesday, September 5, 2018

Opening Prayer: The meeting was called to order by president Misti Mies at 5:03. She led the group in prayer as the first matter of business. In attendance were 3 officers, 6 parents, and 4 staff members. All people in attendance then introduced themselves.

Secretary Report: The minutes to go through were from the March 2018 meeting; however, there was a meeting in May 2018 that took place with no minutes created. Misti shared with the group that the main topics discussed during the May meeting were centered around technology and accessibility in the school. At the May meeting, it was stated that there was uncertainty if the current servers at the school could support adding more devices to it. At this time, Mrs. Jones shared that there is enough to add 10 additional iPads into the building that would primarily be located in the Kindergarten classroom, but be available for use by any of the downstairs classrooms. She also shared that the technology people have been in the building to look at concerns with connectivity and bandwidth to help with teacher concerns. They have also added a firewall system and found a program that will push apps to all available devices rather than having to download them individually onto each device. In the March 2018 meeting, it had been approved for TPO to order up to 20 iPads and during this meeting it was decided at this point to order the 10 as discussed. It was also discussed by members at this point in the meeting that the school's mission regarding technology is to always teach students to be literate in the ever evolving use of it, but not to depend on it and complete every assignment with it.

Treasurer Report: Mr. Kinate had reports ready to share. Per the TPO bylaws regarding how much money can be available at the beginning of a school year, there were concerns with moving money into CDs. Mrs. Jones shared that while textbooks for the 2018-2019 school year have been ordered, they haven't all been delivered yet and therefore the school has not yet received a bill. Misti said that she would check in with Mr. Kinate the next day to see if he had already created the CD and if not, they would wait until all outstanding invoices were received and paid to ensure appropriate cash flow.

Father's Report: Neither priest was in attendance. Nothing to report.

Principal's Report: Mrs. Jones said that they year is off to a great start and that current enrollment is 142 students. She shared that the school is still in search of a permanent Jr. High teacher for Science and Religion classes, as Mr. B is currently employed as a long term sub while he is in waiting for a position with the Air Force. She mentioned that the institute trainings at the start of the year included CPR and AED training as well as open shooter training for all teachers. She said that the entire environment of the building so far is warm and welcoming, that staff is working wonderfully together, and that all are excited for a great year.

Commission of Education Report: Commission members Allison Tarr and Amanda Lauritzen were both present at today's meeting and shared from their meeting from August 8. They said that are an advisory board with monthly meetings to discuss the happenings of the school. At their August meeting, Kelly Krenz attended with an update on the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program

(which started today). Mrs. Gill and Mrs. Jones then shared how wonderful it was as the Kindergarten class started today and how excited the school is to have this program and build upon it in the future years.

Old Business/Ongoing Business:

-Bathroom improvements- the faucets in the bathrooms have been replaced and work. Also new water fountains have been installed and work great.

New Business:

-2018-2019 Fundraisers- Mrs. Gill shared that the goal is to minimize the constant focus on doing all of the fundraisers and focus only one 2 bigger ones throughout the year--Quick Draw and the Draw Down. The goal is also to reach out to companies in the community as sponsors of these events so that money raised goes back to the school rather than funding the event. TPO will work with the Boosters for this community outreach so that businesses aren't continuously asked for funds. The plan for success of these fundraisers is to change the mindset of our parents of constantly feeling the need to sell things to knowing what the money earned will go towards from the 2 done in the year.

-Library fund- A fundraising goal is to make the library a line item on the budget so that resources can be purchased yearly to better serve the students. It was also mentioned how great of a job the current volunteers do to keep everything in order and available to students.

-Trunk or Treat- It was agreed to do this activity again this year after a successful opening year last year. The goal is to have the event as a fellowship event and to include everyone in the school to participate in together. Dates will be looked at so that it doesn't conflict with other events and information will be forthcoming for maximum participation.

Open to the Floor:

-Mrs. Jones shared that the Region 3 training will take place at St. Mary's in October for local teachers to attend. 8 total schools will bring their teachers that day to hear from speakers that are flying into the area. She asked that TPO work towards contributing desserts for the occasion. The members agreed to this and a sign up genius will take place soon.

-A sign up genius will also be out soon asking for family help to cover meals for teachers during parent/teacher conferences. Mrs. Corrigan also made the reminder that babysitting will be available during this time offered by the Student Council.

-It was noted that a goal has been made for more parent involvement overall, but specifically in this case for the TPO. Mrs. Jones approved the incentive that the grade level with the highest parent involvement for coming to TPO meetings will earn a comfy day.

-There was also the reminder that all future TPO meetings will now start at 5:00 instead of 5:30.

Closing Prayer: All in attendance prayed the Our Father and adjourned at 6:05.