

Minutes
MCA Parent Association
May 7, 2008

The meeting was opened at 8:20 am

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the February 20, 2008 meeting were reviewed and approved. The minutes will be available on Homelink.

President's Report: Lisa Hebert

We wish to extend a "Thank-You" to all the volunteers who helped with the many different activities over the school year. Many new parents volunteered their time for the Cultural Fair and the Silent Auction.

A special "Thank-you" is extended to the volunteer parents who are leaving their posts. Among these are:

Tatiana Demirdjian – The School Board and the Yearbook Committee
Jackie Schimizzi – Yearbook Committee
Joni Tucci – Host Family Program
Flo Cusi – Scholastic Book Fair
Naila Pathak – Scholastic Book Fair
Kathleen Hoke – Secretary Parent Association
Nick & Andrea Gawrit – Silent Auction Chair
Michelle Hueser – Market Day

Lisa also wanted to extend an apology for a slow start to the year due to her inexperience as President.

Principals Report: Shane Staszczuk

Terra Nova: The Terra Nova results are in. They were presented at the School Board meeting and will be mailed home after the results have been reviewed. A letter will be included with the mailing that should be sent out around May 20th. A meeting will be scheduled to discuss results if desired. A new report with a recommended reading list will be included based on a Texile Score.

Lunch Program: A parent committee sampled the Green Bag Lunch. This company provides organic foods in recycled packaging. There are three (3) dates available in May for students to order. Approximately 40 lunches have already been ordered. A decision will be made whether we will use this program next year.

FSP also has an alternative menu that offers two (2) options each day – a regular lunch or a Nutri-Track Menu. The regular lunch sells for \$2.60, the Nutri-Track for \$3.10. This is much less than the Green Bag Lunch that sells for about \$5.00. An option is to only have the Green Bag Lunch available a few times a month. Of course, the older students will still have the option to order off of the adult menu.

A suggestion was made to offer a Jimmy John Day once a month.

We are currently interviewing teachers to replace Miss Bennett who will be leaving next year.

We will have two (2) Kindergarten classrooms next year.

The goal is 30 Pre-K students each year. We have nice numbers at the early childhood level with 5-6 openings for Pre-K 3, 1-2 openings for Pre-K 4 and 1-2 openings for Kindergarten.

The future goal is to have a total of 250 students in the school each year.

To make room for a second Kindergarten, the 1st grade classroom will be moving to where the Art Room is now located which will give the 1st grade much more space. Mrs. Baer sat on the committee that made the decision.

The Blue Conference Room will be the Art Room and classes will also be held in the lunchroom.

Next year we will separate the Cultural Fair from Catholic School's Week. This way each event can be focused on separately.

The theme for Catholic School's Week is: "Catholic Schools Celebrate Service."

A concern was brought up that Middle School students missed too much class time due to these events. This will be taken into account when events are scheduled.

The school has received a total of \$50,000.00 in grants. \$25,000.00 of this is from a Rock Foundation Grant to be used for technology. This grant was made possible through an MCA parent.

The remainder of the grants are state and federal money that were applied for. These include:

- Illinois Safety Grant
- A grant for books,
- A grant for Teacher Training
- Terra Nova Grant

The middle school musical was great! The students had a lot of fun. Miss Lint, the Pre-school assistant deserves much credit for all her hard work.

MCA has purchased a sound system for \$2,300.00. In the past we have rented a system for \$900.00. The Parent Association will make a donation towards the cost of the sound system as a middle school donation.

We have already made donations to the Valentines Dance and the 3-5th Grade Dance.

The bathrooms have new partitions. Work on the tiling will be done over the summer. Roof work has been done and the minor leaks have been fixed. The small tuck pointing job has been done. There is still some clean up, plasterwork and painting to be done.

A blue bag recycling effort is underway throughout the school.

Teachers will continue to receive an end of the year bonus through the Parish/School Board rather than through a Parent Association collection. This bonus is taxed by law. Gift cards that are given are not taxed.

Gym uniforms will be slightly changed next year. They will have a nicer font. The old uniforms will still be able to be worn.

Treasurer's Report: Kate Mulligan

We have a balance of \$3,000.00. The parent association is paying for the flooring in the teachers lounge at a cost of \$2,000.00. This project was taken on by the Parent Association several years ago as a gift for the teachers.

A suggestion was made by Carol Ann Nassar to purchase canvas shopping bags with the MCA logo on it and sell these to parents. The initial cost would be \$500.00. These would be available in August.

Chair Updates:

Book Fair: Flo Cusi and Naila Pathak

The Scholastic Book Fair held in November needs Co-Chairs for the next year. This is a very easy job; the most work is the decorations. Scholastic delivers cases that need to be opened for set up and closed down at the end. There is an optional workshop available if desired. Other responsibilities include coordinating with Casey Hall schedule to have the Thursday and Friday available for the fair. A representative from Scholastic is available for help. Volunteers are needed to staff during the actual fair in two (2) hour slots. Student volunteers also help. The fair traditionally takes place on Parent/Teacher Conference Day.

Hospitality: Debbie Rooney

The teacher appreciation lunch will be held Friday May 9th from 11:00 am – 1:00pm. Jimmy Johns will deliver two (2) trays. \$100.00 for sub sandwiches, \$100.00 for beverages and paper products. Invitations have been mailed. Debbie will continue to chair the Hospitality Committee next year.

Auction – Black and White Gala: Lisa Hebert

The auction was a huge success with a more than \$70,000.00 profit for MCA. The Gawrits deserve a huge thank-you for all their hard work. The auction was well organized and ran very smoothly. The Gawrits donated all the placards used and printing costs. They will continue to do all the computer data base entry next year.

We need Co-Chairs for next year in place by this summer. Committees available include venue, decorations, and theme.

A thank-you was extended to Shane and Kathleen Challand for sending out a letter updating individuals on where they stood on their mandatory fundraising obligations.

School Board: Tatiana Demirdjian
Deferred

Cultural Fair: Carol Ann Nassar
Carol Ann is already talking with teachers and working on a theme.

Market Day: Lisa Hebert for Michell Hueser
We will not continue with Market Day next year due to a lack of interest, lack of volunteer support and decreased revenue.

Nickels for Schools: Kathleen Hoke
This year we raised a total of \$4,055.55. We collected over 81,000 milk caps. Shipping cost were \$439.21 for a total profit of \$3,616.34. Thank you letters to Kemps and to individual stores will be sent out at the end of the school year.

Yearbook: Jackie Schimizzi

We have an income of \$1,025.00 from ads and sponsors. Our expenses are \$500.00 which includes postage, developing costs and for disposable cameras. A \$500.00 stipend for teacher photography. The Yearbook Committee is requesting \$100.00 to cover to cost of water, candy and pens for the Yearbook Party that is usually held the last week of school.

The yearbook committee needs Co-Chairs for next year.

There is also a Pre School Edition of a yearbook available. This is a paperback edition, family oriented and focused on Pre-K students. Next year's Yearbook Committee can look into this option.

It is important to start work on the yearbook at the beginning of the school year by obtaining photos of the many activities.

Jackie has put together an instruction book for the new chairs and will be available to meet with them for an orientation to the position.

Miss Bernabe needs a nice digital camera for her classroom. Also keep in mind when receiving or buying new digital cameras, donate your old ones to the school

Uniform Resale: Kathy Murphy

Kathy Murphy will continue to chair the Uniform Resale next year.

New Business:

Altar Servers:

We need more students 5th through 8th grade, boys and girls. Can be trained during the summer. Contact Ed Villasenor.

Kate Mulligan introduced the idea of a school wide election for the Presidential Election on Election Day in November.

The students would be able to vote for President. Mock voting booths could be set-up. The Parent Association and the Student Council would set up the project. Miss Peterson will be asked for her input.

Fall Fundraiser:

Matt Ambre brought up the idea of having a Trivia Night for Parents as a fall fundraising. This event has successfully been held at other schools. It would be sponsored by the Parent Association as a Parish and School event. We hope for 200 people. Everyone would bring in their own appetizers and drinks. Trivia questions would be answered as teams and prizes would be given. A flyer will go out at the end of May and at the end of the summer.

E.-Scripps Program:

E.-Scripps is a program where a percentage of what you spend with participating vendors is donated to the school. All you need to do is link your credit/debit card. More information will be forthcoming.

Open Executive and Chair Positions for 2008-2009

Parent Association Secretary:

Julie Szematowicz has volunteered for the position.

Yearbook:

The possibility of having a faculty sponsor for an after school activity or yearbook elective was discussed. We need someone organized and computer literate.

Book Fair:

Needs two (2) people to Co-Chair.

Kathleen Challand has volunteered to help.

Family Host Program:

Carol Ann Nassar has volunteered to chair this.

Silent Auction:

Needs Co-Chairs and Sub-Committee Chairs

Catholic Schools Week:

Kate Mulligan has volunteered to chair the planning for this.

Old Business:

Bullying Statement:

This has been deferred. Lisa will work on this during the summer and present to Mr. Van Cleef and the committee in the fall. Lisa has a copy of the Archdiocese Statement.

School Newspaper:

Middle school teacher Molly Bishop will be the teacher sponsor and Lisa Hebert will be the Parent Sponsor for the school newspaper, which will be restarted next year. The goal is to eventually have the newspaper on line. All middle school students will be able to participate.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am.