

Minutes
MCA Parent Association
February 20, 2008

The meeting was opened with a prayer at 8:20 AM.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the December 4, 2007 meeting were reviewed and approved. The minutes will be available on Homelink.

Presidents Update: Lisa Hebert

Several Chair positions will be open in the 2008-2009 school year. It is our goal to have these positions filled by the end of this year so that the new chairperson(s) can be trained or become familiar with their roles/responsibilities.

Positions available next year include:

Market Day
School Board Liaison
Year Book

We are considering sharing Market Day among three (3) chairs, so that one person isn't responsible for everything. Market Day occurs one (1) Saturday morning each month for nine (9) months during the school year. MCA receives 10% of the profits.

Principals Update: Shane Staszczuk

All the Special Events, Cultural Fair, 4th & 5th grade overnight outdoor event, 3rd – 5th grade dance and the Valentine Dance, were very successful. Everything ran smoothly. The 4th & 5th grade loved the overnight outdoor event.

Ian Van Cleef coached the Pre-K and Kindergarten soccer team. They recently played St. Josephat's.

Mr. Welebir will be coaching soccer after school this spring for two (2) groups: 1st & 2nd grades, and 3rd – 5th grades.

The State of Illinois has agreed to give Catholic Schools \$30.00 per student for being in compliance with state rules such as AED training and maintenance. This award is retroactive to include the 2006-2007 school year.

The Academic Probation Program is working well. Students are able to work their way back onto a team in 4-5 weeks. Most students affected have been able to accomplish this.

Snow Days – Four (4) Catholic schools in the area, St. Andrews, St. Clements, MCA and St. Alphonsus will make the decision together to cancel school for a snow day. Many factors are taken into consideration including weather conditions for after school. Students are not marked

tardy on bad weather days if they are late for school. Though they are marked absent if they stay home. Room Parents will be contacted to activate the phone tree. Teachers activate their own phone tree. Teachers are not responsible for notifying students. Mr. Van Cleef sends out an E-mail blast as soon as he is notified.

We should also make it a Room Parent responsibility to keep track of new families in their class.

Remodeling: Lockers are being installed on the second floor. This project should be completed after Spring Break.

All four (4) bathrooms will have new dividers.

A roofing company is coming on Thursday 2/21/2008 to perform temporary repairs. Further work will be done in the spring. The roof repairs are estimated at \$10,000.00. This has been approved by the Parish Finance Committee.

Tuck pointing needs to be done, especially around the bathrooms. The estimate for this works is \$14,000.00.

Overall bids for all the necessary repairs total \$100,000.00 to \$140,000.00.

Teachers Lounge – The plasterwork and painting is done, the cost was \$600.00, which was paid for by the Parent Association. The cabinets are installed, electrical work completed. The floor is the next issue, then new table, chairs and microwave.

Treasurer Update: Kate Mulligan

We are currently \$1,700.00 in the black. We have \$4,500.00 in our account.

Expenses:

\$600.00 for pizza for the 3rd – 5th grade dance and the Valentine Dance.

The Parent Association would like to donate a similar amount to the middle school dances to cover the cost of a D.J.

Hospitality – Open House \$200.00

Most events pay for themselves.

School Board: Tatiana Demirdjian

Deferred

Cultural Fair: Carol Ann Nassar

Everyone should check out the links on the website for the mural. Brother Mark Elder is highlighted. The blessing of the mural is scheduled for March and all parents are encouraged to attend.

The total expenses of the Cultural Fair were \$1,291.22.

The T-shirt expenses were \$732.89. T-shirts sales brought in \$1,608.00. This gave us a profit of \$875.11.

The cooking class was a huge success with a profit of \$30.00.

There was \$900.00 in donations.

This year's Cultural Fair made a profit of about \$500.00 for the Parent Association after expenses. We came in under budget in most items.

The new rules implemented for the talent show worked well. We have many talented children.

Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Bernabe, Mrs. Baer and Mrs. Gridell did a great job.

When thanked for all the hard work as chair of the event, Carol Ann read this quote by Harry S. Truman, "*It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.*"

Hospitality: Debbie Rooney

The second open house event went well. The receipts for the event should be submitted to the Marketing Committee for reimbursement. The next event is the Teachers Appreciation Breakfast that will be scheduled towards the end of the year.

Yearbook: Jackie Schimizzi

The deadline is the middle of March. The ads have brought in \$800.00; there is a possible business as pending. If this falls through, there will be five (5) spaces available for purchase.

Expenses are up due to film developing costs, which are approximately \$500.00.

Many pictures have been coming in after the E-mail request went out.

The sports section is being worked on this week; all sports pictures are needed by early next week.

Next year, Josten's has a yearbook version where most of the work is done on-line. This may be ideal for the new chairperson(s). It would also allow student involvement. Mrs. Bernabe will be asked if she could oversee this aspect. But we still need strong parent support.

A goal is to provide a digital camera for every classroom; this would allow teachers to take candid shots.

The Parent Association may be able to supplement the cost of classroom camera at the end of the year with leftover funds.

Silent Auction (Black & White Gala): Andrea Gawrit

Joni Tucci is doing a great job with Marketing and Soliciting. She was also behind the Gala bottled water at the Cultural Fair.

The database is up and running.

March 5th is the early deadline for items.

Volunteers are still needed for soliciting.

This year we will be highlighting “The Green Scene” to promote recycling.

The invitations are being mailed this weekend.

The Auction is being held at the Union League Club. There will be a block of rooms available for overnight.

There will not be a live auctioneer this year, saving us the \$1,000.00 fee.

Letters will go out to families prior to the auction to update them on where they are in their mandatory fundraising obligation.

There will be a pizza party for the grade with the most items donated.

Market Day: Lisa Hebert

Market Day raised \$3,500.00 last year for MCA. As of February 2008, our profit is \$1,728.23.

We need volunteers to chair this fundraiser next year or it will need to be ended.

Even though Market Day is not a large fundraiser, we would like it to continue because it is the only event shared by the school and the parish. Many parishioners and alumni participate.

Nickels for School: Kathleen Hoke

The school has received checks totaling \$1,109.00 for the October shipment to Kemps. Another shipment went out in January and we should be receiving a check for \$1,680.00 shortly. As of date, we have another \$600.00 in milk caps collected, and will shipped out another shipment when we have around \$1,000.00 worth collected.

Old Business

School newspaper needs to be revisited. This years 6th & 7th grades have written a version of a school newspaper, but the original school newspaper hasn't been done in a couple of years. We feel this is a dynamic project that sells the school and should be resumed.

This activity would require a parent or teacher sponsor. It would be done as an extra curricular activity possibly as a club after school.

A teacher sponsor would be offered stipend. The goal is to eventually have the newspaper on-line.

This opportunity will be offered to all the teachers. The Principals Advisory Team will choose amongst the interested candidates who will get the stipend.

Lisa Hebert has volunteered to be the parent liaison for the paper and may be able to involve her DePaul students.

We will follow up with Mrs. Bernabe about a student column in Homelink. Homelink goes out about every 10 days.

Lunch menu has been expanding weekly. More choices are available. The salads have received good feedback.

Bullying Statement

Parents have researched other schools about their bullying policy. A statement will be created defining bullying, the verbal, physical and emotional aspects, and given to administration to be included in the School Handbook.

Mr. Van Cleaf heads the Teacher Discipline Committee. The discipline policy has been re-written and is in the School Handbook. The Archdiocese does have a written bullying policy.

The general feeling among the teachers is that discipline has improved over the past three (3) years and there is a decrease in bullying.

A Christmas bonus was given to the janitors and the Rosie, the lunch lady. They each received a \$50.00 Target gift card.

New Business

The school will be participating in the Script Spelling Bee.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45AM.