

**St. Mary School Board Meeting
September 20, 2023**

In Attendance:

Staff: Joseph Scarpino, Carrie Lohrey
School Board Members: Kayla Martin, Kate Rufa, Kara Cooper
Parents: Lauren Wiley

Opening prayer

Approval of Agenda:

Welcome:

Ministry Fare:

- Cancelled for September 2023.
- Instead of doing a ministry fair, the church has opted for each ministry to host a coffee connection after masses on a Sunday.
- St. Mary school will look to host on Sunday, January 28, 2024 which is the Sunday leading into Catholic Schools week.
- Kate Rufa will look into hosting something similar at St. Pat's in Yorkville.

Spirit Wear:

- Holy Cow Sports spirit wear store is now open and will remain open until October 15th.
- Items from this order will be picked up November 10th and then delivered to the school the following week.
- The new spirit wear store that Kara Cooper has been working on has a target launch date of November 10th.
- A sample of the new spirit wear will be available at the Home for the Holidays Event and will then be raffled off.

Sandwich Fair 50/50 Recap:

- It was a success and raised \$13,300 for our school.
- The new chairpersons of this event were recognized for doing such a great job. They are enthusiastic about continuing to chair this event in the future.
- Note we are St. Mary School (not St. Mary's School) and all signage needs to reflect that.

Cemetery Service Project:

- It was suggested that a service project for Junior High students could be placing flags, wreaths, grave blankets, etc. at local cemeteries.
- Kara Cooper volunteered to look into this and will report back to the school board.

Local Restaurant Nights:

- Kate Rufa reported on her contacts with local area restaurants who would be willing to donate percentages of sales to our schools.
- Included were Culver's in Plano, Mike and Denise's in Yorkville, Panera in Yorkville and Portillo's in Oswego. The school board agreed Culver's in Plano is a good one to start with.
- Kate will check with Culver's if Thursday, December 14th is available following the school's Christmas concert for K-4th grade.
- Carrie Lohrey will reach out to Mike and Denise's about possible dates to have one there.

Upcoming Events:

- Home for the Holidays – Saturday, November 11th.
- Carrie will reach out to those who chair this encouraging them to get a meeting scheduled and express their needs to help make this event successful.
- Alumni was mentioned as a vital part of the success of this evening and that personalized invitations would be a nice way to invite them to attend.

Newsletter:

- More communication has been requested by parents and a newsletter was suggested.
- Kayla Martin has agreed to head this up and will produce a newsletter monthly.
- Per Mr. Scarpino, the newsletter must say, "subject to change" as information/dates can always change.
- The newsletter will include, but not limited to, school events, fundraising goals/results, fun facts from varying classes, highlight a particular faculty member.
- Kayla will possibly form a committee to help her with the newsletter once it is underway.

FACTS:

- Mr. Scarpino expressed concern that certain features of the FACTS portal have been frustrating.
- This problem is not specific to St. Mary School and is being addressed.

Committees:

- Kayla Martin is interested in forming committees where School Board members and other school parents will tackle the needs of our school.
- Examples include but are not limited to Fundraising, Community Relations and Marketing.
- Each committee must have the common goal of serving our school with a Catholic initiative. “To promote and expand activities and programs related to vocations, devotional practices and family-based prayer.”
- We will revisit this at a future school board meeting.

Bingo:

- A family fun night is in the works for February, 2024.