

St. James PTA Minutes

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

7:00 p.m. – Cafeteria

Guest Speaker: Mary Patterson – Sports, Health, & Exercise

Denise Burke called the meeting to order.

Opening Prayer: Denise Burke

Co-President's: Mary Jane Manners/Denise Burke. Denise reminded us that the Mother's Retreat is being held at Stella Maris on March 24th. She also told us about the various activities that took place during Catholic School's Week. Tuesday was an open house for prospective St. James families. Wednesday was Spirit Day and Thursday was Teacher Appreciation Day. The PTA provided lunch and homemade treats for the teachers and staff. Friday was Open Classroom Day. There was a poor turnout for Open Classroom Day. The suggestion was made that reinstating the monthly School House News might prove beneficial. If a current calendar was sent home each month, hopefully it would serve as a reminder for the various activities that the parents need to be aware of. Mr. Cardone said he would speak to Marion about it.

Mary Jane informed us that there will be nominating committee formed that will vote for the incoming presidents and vice-presidents. She informed us that this committee is being creating in accordance with the PTA bylaws for the Diocese of Trenton. If anyone is interested in reading the bylaws they can log on to the St. Joe's website. There is a section that will take you to bylaws that must be followed by the PTA.

Recording Secretary: Linda Murphy. Tina Catapano and Carolyn Polo approved the minutes from the 1/11/12 meeting.

Corresponding Secretary: Tina Catapano. Fred Valentino's mother passed away this week. Fred is the Head of Maintenance for both St. James and RBC. The PTA will be sending something.

Treasurer: Karen Cronk. There have been various questions about expenditures by the PTA. Karen informed us that the spreadsheets are always available for any parent to look at. There was some discussion about posting the spreadsheets for PTA, SJAA, and Development online. Further discussion will take place since a decision must be made as to whether this is a good idea or if there should be another way to make the information accessible.

Karen requested that a copy of all deposit slips be put in the Treasurer's mailbox in the business office. She needs to be aware of all money going in and out so it can be recorded. Also, if a bill is sent directly to the rectory, please let her know so she can record that also. Once again, Karen reminded us that all money requests need to be in by the Friday before the check cashing date. A schedule was given out at the first PTA meeting of the year. If anyone needs another copy of the schedule, she will be happy to give it to you.

Executive Board:

Development: Lynn Doherty/Sandy Abadir. They reported that they are focusing on projects that will help with the upkeep of the school. The Royals painted the EDP room this month and there are new pictures in the main lobby of the school. They are in the process of itemizing and prioritizing various projects that need to be addressed. They will be using St. James families to do as much of the work as possible. The nurse's office and the floor in Mrs. Signoriello's classroom are top priority.

Royals: Joe DeLeo reported that the Polar Plunge made over \$9600.00. They are putting a plan in place to work on earning even more money next year. Once again, the suggestion was made that the basketball teams should not have games on the day of the Polar Plunge.

Game Night was a success. Brian Hill and all of the volunteers did a great job. There were ten different games and a hot dog cart as well. The Royals are also thinking of hosting an SJS bowling night in the spring.

The Royals will be painting the nurse's office on March 31st. A suggestion was made that an announcement be made in school so that people are aware that help is needed. Maria Rimmele said she will put it on the website and the email blast.

Children's Programs: Brooke Cassidy informed us that the Franklin Institute will be here in April with a program for the school. Sandy Abadir suggested that Brooke check with the Liberty Science Center because she heard that they also provide some good school programs.

SJAA: Michaela Ferrigine and Chris Ferrigine stated that the SJAA golf outing is not making enough money to fund the many sports that are offered at St. James. All sports at St. James are paid for solely by the funds raised by SJAA. SJAA has decided to sponsor a 5K run which will be held on Saturday, April 14, 2012 at Wolf Hill. There will be a party at Murray McGregors after the race. They are trying to leverage the running community. A small committee has been formed and Michaela requested approval for 16 PFE points to be awarded to those on the committee. Most of those on the committee

already have their points, but for those that don't, the request was made. Jeanne O'Conner and Joe DeLeo approved. They are also looking for volunteers for the day of the race. It should be about a 6 hour commitment and Maria Rimmele and Kate Niesz approved 4 points for that job. SJAA is also going to need some 7th and 8th grade volunteers.

The floor in the gym needs to be redone. SJAA is also trying to raise money for this. We have been renting out the gym. As of now, we get \$60.00 an hour for gym rental but we are probably going to raise it to \$80.00 an hour. We need to have an SJS representative in the gym during the time that it is rented out. A request was made to award PFE points for those who take on this responsibility. Lisa Swabsin and Sandy Abadir approved.

Committee Chairs:

After School Clubs: Liz Rogers/Lindsay Horowitz. Liz stated that After School Clubs start on February 28th. This year there will be nine clubs with the majority of the clubs geared towards 3rd grade and under. The deadline for signups is supposed to be this Friday, but they are going to extend it to next Wednesday. Enrollment is down but they are going to put a reminder on the website. There is a conflict with the K-1 "Lizard Guy" program. They are going to speak with the teachers for next year to hopefully work on the timing so children can participate in both things.

Kindergarten Social: Carly Deickman reported that the Social will be taking place this Saturday between 9:00 and 12:00. Breakfast will be served and there will be a variety of crafts and games.

Mother/Son Outing: Janine Benoit Vitale stated that the event will be held on Saturday, March 10th between 12:00 and 2:00. The Outing will be held at Yestercades in Red Bank. The deadline is February 28th and there are 32 registered so far.

Care Steps: Elaine Goumas/Sandy Thuel. Elaine told us about the events during Catholic School's Week. The donations made during the "Souper Bowl of Caring" were given to Lunch Break. The students also made posters that were displayed in the halls during the week.

On February 25th and March 10th students in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades can volunteer to serve between 9:00 and 12:00 at Lunch Break. The flyer is online.

Magazine Sales: Laurie Miller informed us that the kickoff for the magazine sale will be held on February 14th and the sale will continue until February 28th. There are many

different incentives such as a bubble wrap popping event and a limo ride to lunch. The top three sellers go into the special money machine.

Ice Skating Event: Lisa Swabsin stated that the ice skating event was on January 19th. The event was very well attended with 159 skaters from St. James.

Step Up for St. James: Carolyn Polo/Lena Zazza. Carolyn stated that Step Up is being completely revamped this year. The tentative date is April 4th. There isn't going to be much solicitation for this event. Instead, we are going to try to award dress downs, spirit wear, etc. The first prize will be 16 PFE points with a required \$425.00 minimum earned in donations. Second prize will be Flynn and O'Hara gift cards and third prize will be SJS spirit wear. The class with the highest sales will earn a pizza party, 2nd highest will have homework free night and 3rd will have a class dress down. Carolyn requested \$350.00 for costs. Elaine Goumas and Sandy Abadir approved.

St. Patrick's Day Party: Jeanne O'Connor/Carol Guido. Jeanne reported that the St. Patrick's Day party is back on. It will be held on Saturday, March 10th from 8:00 to 12:00 in the BSA. This is not a fundraiser. The cost will be \$15.00 and will include appetizers, dessert, beer, wine and soda. Appetizer donations will be needed.

Closing/Other Business: Mr. Cardone had nothing else to report.