

St. Rose Home and School Association General Meeting September 20, 2006, 6:00 p.m.

President John Moulder presiding

Present: Fr. Robert Weiss, Mrs. Maloney, Sr. Thaddeus, Treasurer Terry Tortora, Pre-School Rep. Laura McNerney, Secretary Theresa Ludanyi, 112 families were represented, members of the St. Rose Diocesan Advisory Board, St. Rose faculty

The meeting was opened with a prayer led by Fr. Bob.

John Moulder introduced the members of the new Board and thanked the previous Board for their service and for leaving the HSA in strong condition. He also thanked Sock Hop chairpersons Liz Briscoe and Laura Moulder for organizing a very successful and enjoyable first HSA event of the year. John briefly described the Parent Ambassadors program which assigns veteran school families to reach out to new families, answer their questions and support them in getting used to the school.

Fr. Bob Remarks

This school year we have a strong return rate of both families and faculty. We are now fully under the new Diocesan School System. The transition from the former Regional system has taken about two years. All schools adhere to the Diocesan Operations model and also to an Educational Cluster model where schools are clustered to provide the principals a forum for meeting and discussing administrative and curriculum programs. In-house, we are responsible for our financial solvency, building needs, and marketing and development. We have a Diocesan Advisory Board to guide decision making. Members include: Ellen Curran, Marilyn Imbimbo, Charles Nanavaty, Joe Morrissey, Jim Gerbo (Chair), John Moulder, James Filan, Mrs. Maloney, Fr. Bob and Sr. Thaddeus. Those present were introduced.

Building Project

Phase I - Parish Education Center: The Diocese signed the architect's contract and we are in the process of having detailed plans drawn up. The Building Committee is working with the Town Planning and Wetlands Commissions to meet their requirements. We hope to put a shovel in the ground in January. The projected building time is ten months. The building plans for this Phase were scaled back last year because our fund raising fell short of our original goals. Two class rooms, a children's chapel and a grotto to be dedicated to Jennianne Fisher were temporarily set aside.

Phase II will be starting soon. We would like to raise enough additional money to be able to complete the chapel, grotto and the two additional classrooms. The Building Committee will be contacting families who have not yet made a pledge to encourage them to participate.

Physical Plant Needs and Finance Issues

This summer the parish footed the bill for several improvement projects in the school. The Carnival proceeds were used to pay for bathrooms in the Pre-School - \$40,000 - and a third portable to house upper grade classes - another \$40,000. Still needed is new decking for the entries to the portables. Estimates are running \$10,000 to \$15,000. The parish Finance Board is hoping that the HSA will pay the parish back in part.

We try to balance keeping tuition and the parish subsidy of the school reasonable with adequate teacher salaries and benefits, necessary building up-keep and planning for the future. We need to pace ourselves on reaching for the "bells and whistles." Please have patience. We'd like to identify people within the school community who could do pro-bono work, in any field, for the school to help hold down costs.

We will be holding a work party on Saturday, September 30 to get the grounds spruced up and ready for a visit from the accreditation panel which will be visiting the school this fall..

Mrs. Maloney Remarks

Mrs. Maloney thanked everyone for coming and encouraged all to visit the volunteer sign up table in the school lobby when they went over for the open house. We could use almost any skill you have. You do not have to be on the school grounds to be doing something helpful for the school. If you want to offer help, sign up on one of the lists tonight or send an e-mail or phone call and tell us what you'd like to do.

Mrs. Maloney introduced the faculty of the main school.

Sr. Thaddeus Remarks

Sister introduced the pre-school faculty. The Pre-school is off to a great start. Enrollment is 109.

HSA Financial Review - Terry Tortora

Terry provided the 9/17/06 Balance Sheet and Profit/Loss statement. Our financial activities thus far have been limited to depositing family fees- 47% have been paid; paying new year expenses including the first quarter of our Diocesan Assessment; and paying off the summer expenses which were approved at the previous General Meeting in May. Our annual assessment from the Diocese is \$55,000. The family fee was historically instituted by the HSA to ensure that all school families participated in raising funds to pay the assessment and meet school needs not covered by tuition.

Volunteer Opportunities

A flyer describing the twenty-plus committees and events sponsored by the HSA was distributed. Please read it over and choose something to be involved in. It is through the generous offering of time and talent from the St. Rose parents that the HSA can accomplish so much good for St. Rose School.

Passive Fund Raisers

These are fund raising activities that are voluntary. They include:

Box Tops for Education, coordinated by Theresa Ludanyi, earns cash for the school,

Magazine/Gift Wrap Drive, coordinated by Jill D'Alessandro, earns cash for the school, everyone should have gotten their information packet, orders are due 9/28/06.

The newly revived Campbell's Labels for Education, coordinated by Michelle DePinto with the assistance of the St. Rose cub scouts, earns equipment of many kinds for the school.

Someone asked about fund raising with Target Visa. They had seen a report of \$900 for St. Rose on their monthly statement. Mrs. Maloney has not been apprised of any earning for St. Rose from this program. Someone will look into it.

Scrip Program - Gayanne Haas

Under the Scrip program, the school buys gift and grocery cards in bulk at a 5 - 13% discount. Parents (and others) buy the cards for the face value price and get 100% of that value on the card. Last year with 74 families participating, we earned \$5,000 which was reinvested in the program to expand it for this school year. This year we have over thirty vendors available every week. The listing comes home in the family packet. Once per month orders are taken for national vendors listed on the Great Lakes Scrip website. There are over 500 vendors listed there.

Upcoming Events

Work Party to spruce up the building and grounds, September 30, contact Gary Daniels.

Catholic Schools Walk-A-Thon, HSA's biggest fund raiser of the year, Sunday October 15, 12:30 Mass followed by a fitness course and a cook out. We keep 100% of the money raised. You can fulfill your pledge requirement in three ways: soliciting pledges, getting business sponsors, or collecting at Mass on Columbus Day weekend. This is a great family event. Materials have been sent home in the family packet. Contact Anne Ragusa with questions.

Scholastic Book Fair, buy books and earn books and materials for our library, October 23-26, contact Dawn Ringes or Kristen Renzi.

Missoula Children's Theater, everything but the cast for *Robin Hood* comes to St. Rose; students in Grades 1-8 may audition and 50 -60 will be cast; involves a week of rehearsal and two performances, October 30 - November 4. Does anyone wish to offer housing for the two professional theater personnel who run the program? Contact Alice Walsh.

Everyone was invited to the school for open house/curriculum night following the meeting.