

St Mary's Academy Parents' Guild Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 09, 2021
Online via Zoom Meeting hosted by Connie Yunyk

In attendance: Ramona Thomson, Gillian Hauser, Jennifer Melo, Joanie Smalley, Connie Yunyk, Shannon Cisneros, Rosa Bovino, Mel Jones, Heather Turzak, Irene Mestito-Dao

Regrets: Venus Denis

1. Meeting called to order at 7:06pm.
2. Traditional Land Acknowledgement by Ramona Thomson
3. Opening prayer by Connie Yunyk
4. Approval of Agenda
 - Motion to accept by Rosa Bovino and seconded by Shannon Cisneros
5. Approval of Previous Minutes – September 29, 2020
 - Motion to accept by Rosa Bovino and seconded by Irene Mestito-Dao
6. SMA President's Report – Connie Yunyk
 - General update
 - Re-imagine, re-think, pivot:
 - COVID-19 and the school's response: since the summer, SMA leadership has been diligently focusing on protocols and processes to ensure the school is clean, sanitized and safe. All sectors of the school have had to re-imagine daily plans and other deliverables. SMA is back to pre-Christmas schedule – grades 7 and 8 in school full-time, grades 9-12 SMA blended learning model.
 - SMA has had 2 positive articles published in the WFP, one a general response to pandemic and second one on the SMA Prep Team.
 - During the Christmas holiday, treat bags were delivered to all 31 SNJM sisters; they were appreciative and thrilled
 - Recruiting and Admissions
 - Virtual Open House was held on January 19, using webinar format and by invitation only. Follow-up sessions were held on Admissions and Financial Assistance on January 20, and 2-one-hour program info sessions on January 21.
 - There was a total of 231 requests for applications for grades 7 through grade 12 as of January 26. The admissions Deadline is February 5. The School had to re-think and change the Admissions process due to the pandemic.
 - Strategic Plan
 - Work is still progressing on the SMA Framework of Learners and Educators, to be completed by April and implemented in September
 - Wellbeing survey 2.0 for SMA employees will be launched sometime in April 2021

- Advancement and Development
 - 5 years ago, the President was tasked with raising \$1M for bursary. As of January 15, 2021, \$1.6M has been raised, thanks to the generosity of the SMA community
 - This year 92 bursaries were disbursed totaling \$426,000, very high need, and we have been able to accommodate all requests
- Projects
 - Window replacement project: \$1M project over 4 years, phase 1 to start July 2021
 - Reception area upgrade: currently in design stage, will move to construction stage in March and hopefully ready for April
 - IT update: Surface Pro purchased for all teachers, Online Business Solutions assisting with Help Desk staff trouble-shooting and creation of Information Security Policy
 - A Wonderland skating pond on grounds of SMA was developed for the students for use

7. Board Liaison Report – Shannon Cisneros

- Discussions and voting taking place on Potential Candidate for School President
- Next Board meeting to be held in March
- Heidi Chuback and Shannon Cisneros will assist Connie Yunyk and be on the Nominating Committee for selection of the Parents' Guild Executive positions

8. PG Executive Committee Reports

President – Ramona Thomson

- A difficult year for fundraising for the school. A number of events cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Ordered gifts for 2021 graduates from Kal Barteski

Volunteers - 2nd VP – Jennifer Melo

- No report

Treasurer – Joanie Smalley presented on behalf of Venus Denis

- Provided update on Financial Report for the period of July 01, 2020 to December 31, 2020
Motion to accept by Jennifer Melo and seconded by Irene Mestito-Dao

9. Committee Updates - 1st VP – Gillian Hauser

- **Corner Store**, Chair - Heidi Chuback
 - The Corner Store will open Wednesdays starting after this long weekend subject to COVID protocols in place.
- **Tartan Shop** - Chair - Shawn Morrison
 - The Tartan Shop is open Fridays starting this week subject to COVID protocols in place
- **International Day**, Chairs - Meghan O'Laughlin and Chrissy Werestiuk
 - Looking at possibly spring 2022 for this event

- **Parents' Guild Cash Lottery**, Chair - Melanie Jones
 - Not proceeding with paper cash lottery, moving to online 50/50 style lottery. Working on getting licence info completed. Mel to connect with Online lottery company.
- **Hospitality** – Chair Devon Ostir
 - Teacher Appreciation event coming up on February 20. Lunch will be catered by Academy Bistro
- **Special Events - New Parent Mix and Mingle**, Chairs - Heather Wallace, Michelle Saltel
 - Event was cancelled. No report.
- **Special Events - Torch Talks**, Chairs - Nancy Shippam with Lucia Whitney
 - To be held on February 20, 10am-11:30am via Zoom Webinar. TOPIC: I See You, I See You Trying. I'm Trying Too. Leaning In, Leaning On, Leaning Towards - A Real Talk for Unreal Times, Facilitated by: Dr. Meaghen Johnston, RSW
 - Many people already registered for this online event
- **Special Events - Golf Tournament**, Ramona Thomson and Gillian Hauser
 - In the planning stage. Possible date: June 10. The event will be about celebrating community
 - Requesting people to volunteer and be part of the planning team

10. Miscellaneous/New Business

- nil

Meeting adjourned at 7:59pm

Next Parents' Guild Meeting and appreciation celebration*:

Tuesday, ~~May 11, 2021~~ rescheduled to Monday May 17, 2021

Time: 4:30pm

Location: virtual via Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85978283458?pwd=NTQzcnhJZUZuVlIaemtBLzFGOHROUT09>