



**Parent's Association Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Prayer:** Frank Arvizzigno, School Principal

**Attendance:** Frank Arvizzigno, Bruce Watson, Tracy Krawczyk,  
Rachel Chwiecko, Thomas Boulis, Terri Morgan

- We are working to change the format of Parent Association Meetings going forward for next year to include more heads of committees on the meeting agendas in order to provide opportunities for chairs to meet and discuss matters on a regular basis.

Mrs. Krawczyk is the chair of the Parent Association. Please contact her and Mr. Arvizzigno in regards to possible agenda items for upcoming meetings and/or questions in regards to items discussed at previous meetings.

**Recap of the fiscal year:** Bruce Watson, School Finance Director

- The increased enrollment in preschool as a result of expanding our preschool program has made up for the revenue lost in the absence of a 6<sup>th</sup> grade program.
- Changing from outsourcing the cleaning of the parish, school and rectory to an in-house cleaning team positively affected our budget
- Even though we are ending the year in a deficit, we are trending toward a decreasing deficit from last year to the current year.

**Parent Involvement Committee:** Rachel Chwiecko, Parent Involvement  
Committee Chair

- Approximately seven parents outside of the committee attended the first Parent Involvement Committee Meeting
- Spirit wear? Goal for December, possibly using Big City Sports (Gizzi family)
- Want to bring back "Breakfast with Santa", the parish will still do the Jesus' birthday party, possibly coordinating the Breakfast and Birthday party together and connect with other parishes
- Instead of a Mother-Son Dance, Father-Daughter Dance, possibly in February for Valentine's Day do a Formal Family Dance
- Movie Night starting on December 7<sup>th</sup> (possible date ~ more details to follow) with a Christmas movie, SLS families have a popcorn machine, Mr. Arvizzigno has a contact with Knights of Columbus to make fried dough
- Parents vs. Kids basketball

- Roller-skating: addressed concerns with supervision; it is still a possibility for Catholic Schools Week as we are happy with the way the company runs it
- Mrs. Chwiecko said maybe a Discount night at Glacier Ridge
- Fine Arts Night is a great event and we will work to make it more widely known, maybe adding a section to the website that gives info
- Game Night ~ monthly, separate for different ages
- What is the cost of these events? Expense information will be needed ~ most things would be very minimal
- BINGO (May be unable to do this due to NYS gaming laws) Casino Night? Euchre Night? A way to get parents involved. Parent Involvement Committee will have to meet with Mr. Arvizzigno and the School Executive Leadership Team to see if these events can be done.
- Vendor sale ~ (Other schools do this) Maybe around Easter
- Walk a Thon Fundraiser ~ Discussion about the possibility of when students are asking for pledges in their neighborhoods to have something physically given out to educate people you are soliciting money from.

### **Parent Survey Results:**

#### **What do you like/improve about SLS?**

- We have approximately 120 families at St. Lawrence School. Only 26 families participated in the survey.
- Participation was requested at Parent Association Meetings as well as through weekly newsletters and newsflashes.
- Parents asked for an increase in the integration of technology into content areas. This is being addressed through the purchase and use of Chromebooks in the upper grades and increased use of i-Pads in classrooms including preschool.
- Some parents asked if more teachers could attend school events. Our teachers are required to attend many of the annual school functions such as 5<sup>th</sup> grade graduation, Walk-a-Thon, Christmas Concert, and Parent-Teacher Conferences.
- Have more community building events. Our Parent Involvement Committee will be increasing the number of events this year.
- Some parents have shared that tuition is too high and after school care is too expensive. Our tuition is comparable to other Catholic Schools and in many cases lower. Our after school care program is much lower in cost in comparison to many other after school care programs.
- Need more after school clubs and sports. We have created an after school club committee and are increasing the number of after school clubs this year.

- Many of the things parents are asking for require parent volunteers.
- More writing activities and reading activities during the school day. This year we have implemented the Lucy Calkins Readers' and Writers' Workshop model as part of our ELA program to address this.
- Some parents did not want teachers to share I-Ready data during Parent Teacher Conferences as it seemed confusing and not accurate. I-Ready reports may be requested by parents if they would like this information. The diagnostic is one snapshot of a child at the start of the school year and is mainly used by teachers to inform their instruction in the classroom. Parents can contact their child's teacher if they have questions in regards to this.

### **Feedback Regarding School Communication:**

- Overwhelming majority of parents who completed survey wrote that the website is great, everything is accessible and always up to date. Going digital is better; parents love the newsletters, website, communication, and report cards
- Five parents said that they would like to bring back hard copies of report cards and/or newsletters. We will continue to have online newsletters and electronic report cards. We will still print out a report card for everyone for the fourth quarter to take with them at the end of the school year. There were some glitches with the roll out of report cards last year and we are addressing these and hope to have a smoother process this year.
- On MSP can there be access on your mobile device. (update below from MSP tech support)
- Yes, parents can access MSP through their cell phones, however, we do not have an app for cell phones, which means it is still formatted for PC or Laptop use. We do recommend using a home computer or laptop, but you can still see MSP from a phone. It is easier to access the report cards from a computer, but if a parent has Adobe Reader (an app) downloaded on their cell phone, it will let them open up the report cards once they are made available by the school.
- Would like to see preschool included in the newsletter more. Mr. Arvizzigno is working to include more preschool photos and information in newsletters this year.

### **How would you rate your child's education?**

- Almost every parent who completed the survey rated their child's education as Good or Excellent.