

St. Rita School Home and School Association Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2023

Attending:

Meghan Burns, Mary Walsh, David Gatto, Kelly Mulhern, Terren Lawlor, Angela Farina, Christine McPherson, Tammeey Emerling, Erin DaCosta, Robin Innaimo, Richard Kirby, Adrianna Bigard, Kelly Feiler, Patricia Tiezzi, Edith Johnson, Brittany Mirles, Stephanie Damiani, Ashley Stairs, Katie Arcangelo, Rosa Sullivan, Ann Werner, Pamela Ventura, Diana Gallagher, Krystal Augustine, Melba Ifill

- Opening prayer—Mrs. Tiezzi
- Mrs. Tiezzi announced that St. Rita School has purchased the neglected property next to the preschool side of the building. SRS finished the last school year in a strong financial position, so the discretionary funds were available to purchase the property.
- Acknowledgments and discussion of successful fundraisers so far this year:
 - Pencil grams raised \$160.
 - Movie night raised \$668.25.
 - Mum sale raised \$1415.
- New deposit protocol
 - Handouts are available.
 - Fundraising chairs are encouraged to contact the treasurers, Antonia Baroga and Ann Werner, with questions about completing and submitting the financial paperwork.
- Discussion of Apples Etc. fundraiser and the distribution of apples
- Trunk-or-Treat
 - This has not been an HSA-sponsored event in the past, but HSA will assume leadership of the event next year. Two parents have volunteered to chair next year's event, so they are shadowing the current organizer.
 - This year, HSA will be hosting a 50/50 drawing during the event.
- Shred Day (Nov. 4th)
 - Purchasing new signs that can be reused year after year (Kelly Mulhern)
- APEX fundraiser (Nov. 6th – 17th)
 - Chairs: Meghan Burns and Brittany Mirles
 - Katie Arcangelo requested better communication with parents regarding what APEX is and how it works. She recommended flyers with a more robust description rather than just sending home a QR code.
 - Mrs. Tiezzi requested that HSA set a fundraising goal for APEX for this year.
 - Last year, APEX raised \$19,000.
 - Question was raised about why the Walk-a-thon was discontinued. Mrs. Tiezzi explained that the volunteer pool shrunk, and they couldn't find any parents willing to chair the event. APEX replaced the Walk-a-thon. The school outsources the organization of the event. This is the second year of a three-year contract with APEX. Profits should be a little higher this year due to the fact that we will not have to pay the start-up fee to APEX.

- Advent Wreaths (Dec. 2nd)
 - Chair: Jen Buchanon
 - Hosting event in the SRS gym
 - Christine McPherson recommended selling the kits after Masses.
 - Mrs. Tiezzi recommended including all churches in Pope Paul VI parish, not only St. Rita's.
 - Christine and Katie Arcangelo will work with Jen to recruit middle schoolers who need volunteer hours to help with the post-Mass sales.
- Gingerbread Houses
 - Chair: Christine McPherson
 - Date to be determined
 - We will use milk cartons as the frames for the houses.
 - During the event, HSA will sell baked goods (wrapped to-go) and photos with Santa.
 - Mrs. Tiezzi's goal for FUNraisers: Keep them affordable for all families while covering our costs.
- NUT coupons
- Jingle Mingle
 - Social event for adults only
 - Details to follow
- 8th Grade Graduation Picnic
 - 7th grade room moms are aware of the responsibilities.
- Open Discussion
 - Crusader Girls cheer and dance team is available to help with fundraisers. (Crystal Augustine)
 - Mrs. Tiezzi raised the question about HSA selling concessions during SRS home games at Sacred Heart (would raise money from people outside of the pool of SRS families).
 - How can we update parents periodically throughout the year about our progress toward the HSA fundraising goal? Suggested visual: Giant thermometer sign to be put out once a month during drop off and/or pick up
 - Re-evaluate Charleston Wrap for next year?
 - A parent observed that high shipping charges were a deterrent for her. Could we adjust timing so that Apples, Etc. and Charleston Wrap are not happening simultaneously?
 - HSA will be sending out a survey to parents (Rosa Sullivan)
 - What kind of fundraisers do they want?
 - What gifts-in-kind would SRS families donate for fundraisers (i.e. Gift cards from their own small businesses)?
 - Mrs. Tiezzi encouraged parents to share their ideas about new fundraisers and then volunteer to chair the event.
 - Some parents expressed a desire for more event-centered fundraisers rather than sales fundraisers.

- Fundraising nights at local restaurants in which percentage of proceeds are donated to SRS
 - HSA is open to this if parents are willing to contact restaurants and get the process started.

Follow Up Items

- Trunk or Treat
 - Send out fliers to classrooms
 - Post on FB and include in weekly email
 - Confirm pricing for tickets and if petty cash is needed for change (Ann Werner)
- APEX Fundraiser
 - Create an explanatory flyer to send home to parents?
 - Set a monetary goal and share with the school community
- Advent Wreaths
 - Contact Mrs. Hamling regarding middle school volunteers (Katie or Christine?)
- Gingerbread Houses
 - Choose date
 - Get backdrop for photos
 - Find a chair for Santa (schedule a time with Mrs. Tiezzi to check storage area underneath the gym)