

Trinity Catholic Academy  
PTO Minutes  
November 12, 2019

635 PM: meeting opened with prayer by Father Ken.

Matt Hart spoke about two events taking place:

**February 8, 2020** – valentines event. Dance and hor dourves and desserts. Cash bar. For parish and community. Goal is to raise money for Parish and School.

**March 27, 2020** - Cardboard city homeless project. Held up at Notre Dame courtyard. To raise awareness to parents, families and children of the homeless population here in Southbridge. Spend the night in a cardboard box. Fundraiser for St. Luke's Guest House in Southbridge. Solicit donations to participate in the project.

Treasurer report by Mrs. Citta –

**Starting Balance: \$2827.07**

Black board connect	\$275.00
Scripts	+ \$95.00
Poke a Pumpkin	+ \$220.00
Bemis Scarecrow	+ \$140.00
<b>Bus for 6-8 grade</b>	<b>-\$450.00</b>

**Ending Balance: \$2558.50**

MAP testing concluded.

Haunted House was successful. Wonderful trip that 6-8 grades went on that was a great opportunity.

Moving along with invention education. Kids have to come up with inventions that go along with stories presented. Other activities planned for after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year.

Next week is "Discovering Catholic Schools Week". Starting with Muffins with Mom on Monday from 730-800. Wednesday open house from 10-2. Allows community to come in during the day to see everyday operations.

Feedback from survey. Thank you for completing the survey. We have tried to increase communication via email with families. Several parents expressed that email communication from the school goes to junk mail. Members were encouraged reach out to others to ensure emails do not go to junk.

Discussed findings from survey. Implemented fencing and speed sign to increase safety around the school for the children.

By-Law amendments:

Is PTO membership mandatory? Is it optional? If not, then needs to be clarified.

One typo identified and corrected.

Verified that volunteering is for school activities not just PTO activities and members need to be CORI'd.

Reviewed the timeframes for discussion, notification and amendment voting. Confirmed needs to be in person and members present confirmed that the notification timeframes as stated in the new amendments is ok.

Rationale for volunteering and \$ requirement comes back to allowing PTO to fund or partially fund field trips, etc.

Several large fundraisers are currently chaired by persons who no longer have children in the school. These are large fundraisers that help to offset tuition and rarely have family involvement to support them yet our children reap the benefits.

The question is what do we want the PTO to do? Do we want to identify a set list of fundraisers and family activities? Do we want to set a budget? These are conversations that we need to have but either way without PTO support we could not provide the same opportunities. If we did not have the current list of fundraisers, tuition would raise to approximately \$6000.

Going forward, suggestion that a document accompany "free" or "reduced fee" due to PTO support.

Goal is that requests would typically be discussed at the PTO meetings and voted on.

Participation hours vs. volunteer hours or call it a donation in kind. Should the donations or purchased tickets for events, donations for auctions, etc. count toward the requirement.

At the end of the day, if we are not able to get appropriate participation then we may need to look at the cancelling of events.

Change the language from volunteer to requirement. Perhaps back off on the time. Parents who volunteer the time get to reap the rewards? Should everybody reap the rewards for a few people?

Tier the events: family must participate certain amount of tiers and plan ahead. Plan out ahead of time to learn the gravity of the events. Lean on the need amount. What are the opportunities for each event? Better define the job roles ahead of time.

We should encourage participation but not penalize it.

Survey identified families want more for their kids but nobody wants to step up. We can't have it both ways.

Donations to participate in crazy hair day, dress down day, etc.  
Should encourage families and get them to understand that this is for their kids.  
They should want to do it for their children.

Our goal, hope aspiration is that we don't collect a single dollar from you. Our goal is that we have you more engaged in the school and your children.

Get the message across to the group so they understand what the PTO and the fundraisers do to defray costs.

What events do we want to hold? Do we want to have them paid or free? We know what the big fundraisers are so we would want to continue those identified events but what else do we want to do?

Notice out to parents: this is what was discussed. There are a lot of ideas on the table but we need to know what to do? Your tuition could be \$6000. There is a level of communication that needs to be done. As a new parent it is important that this information gets communicated.

1. Define membership in PTO – assumed, voluntary, etc.
2. Ideas about how to communicate it out and define exactly what the needs are.

Special thank you to Mrs. McGary for arranging the trip to Wood's Hole.

Appreciate your assistance and discussion and bringing ideas. This makes the PTO feel supported.

Vendor fair, anybody interested in chairing next year. Please reach out to volunteer and learn what is needed

Santa's Workshop:

10-1130 Monday  
9-11, Tuesday and Wednesday,  
530-730 Tuesday evening. (tentative times)

December 10<sup>th</sup>, 630 pm special meeting to vote on by-laws.

Adjourned at 810 pm.