

**St James PTA Minutes**  
**Wednesday, February 25, 2015**  
**7:00 PM in the School Cafeteria**

Paula Pangilinan called the meeting to order

**Opening Prayer:** Christian Buckman

**Principal's Report:** Mr. Cardone

- Mr. Cardone addressed the announcement about the closing of Mater Dei Prep. He emphasized that Catholic education is not dying, and that this is just an isolated case where Mater Dei has been struggling with enrollment for years. Saint James School is strong – in fact, we are one of the strongest schools in the diocese, as well as one of the oldest. Saint James is the 9<sup>th</sup> largest school in the diocese, and there are only 3 schools that are larger in Monmouth and Ocean Counties. As long as we maintain the integrity of education at the middle school level, we have flexibility at the lower level, including our preschool, which doubled in size this year, and just enrolled its 100<sup>th</sup> student. Students continue to enroll at all grade levels and in fact, there were seven new 8<sup>th</sup> graders accepted this year. High schools are different in that they have to maintain a larger number of programs, and as a result, really have to spend a large sum of money to keep afloat. Mr. Cardone continues to communicate with the other Catholic schools in the diocese to share ideas so that we can remain strong.
- Eighth Grade will be taking TerraNova Exams this year, based on the Diocese recommendation. It gives us more credence in sending St. James students onto other Catholic high schools.
- May 1 will be a Day of Diocesan Service, which will involve the entire school. St. James will focus on an important cause, which will be Lunch Break. All grades will receive assignments of what they will donate. The older grades will package the items, bring them to Lunch Break, and spend time there unpacking and shelving the goods.
- Mrs. Giordano asked for approval of funds for two separate items. The first was \$200 for an assembly on sign language for the Preschool and Kindergarten students. The second was for two new projectors, since they will not last until the end of the year. The teachers use them and need them for the Smart Boards, which are crucial for teaching. Mrs. Giordano asked for a total of \$2,000, which was approved by Christian Buckman and Liz Coscia.
- Mrs. Giordano thanked everyone for supporting the school fundraisers, and stressed that the money raised is going right back to the kids for important uses in the classroom. For example, the money raised from the Book Fair went to purchasing some books needed by teachers in the classrooms and some science kits for the lower grades. There will be a need for new Social Studies books with an online component for the middle school (like the Science books purchased last year). There is a seven year online program included with these books, so there is a cost savings involved with having an online component.

**President's Report:** Paula Pangilinan

- State of the PTA – The major changes that were instituted this year are making a difference. Volunteers are stepping up, and families are either paying their fee, fundraising, or working fee exempt positions. Communication with the Grade Parents has been effective, and it gives a more personal touch. The social events so far have been well-attended. The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Events are all being planned by the respective Chairs, so they are on track. The PTA will fund the Kindergarten Picnic, as well as the Dad's Gone Fishin' and Mother's Day Tea events for the preschool (Preschool also did a wonderful job fundraising, so we want to support them.)
- Directory – The print version is expensive and very time-consuming, so the plan was to work on an online version. Unfortunately, forms were filled out incorrectly, and while trying to sort it all out, there were new enrollments while other students left the school, so it was called off for this school year. There is now a call for volunteers with expertise in internet display and security to work as a group to solve the issues and get the directory up for next school year. At this point, it is permissible for the Grade Parents to supply information for their grade, **ONLY** if they get permission from everyone in the grade to share it.
- Progressive Raffle – All money raised will go toward improvements in the school building. The winner will be chosen at the St. Patrick's Day Social. There is an added urge for students to get out and sell tickets since this year we will not be able to have students in uniform selling tickets after Masses because we are already in the Lenten season.
- Field Day – Currently looking for someone to Chair. That person would organize volunteers to walk the students to Count Basie Field, help with the equipment and games, fill water dispensers, etc. Dads would be great for this and are welcome! Grades 1-7 participate over three days, June 9-11 (Kindergarten has already graduated by then, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade has their own Fun Day).
- Arcade Day – replaces the Dance-A-Thon. Currently looking for someone to Chair. It is the final school fundraiser and it takes place in May during the school day. The teachers run it, but they will need some parents to help. Money raised goes back into the classrooms.
- Catholic Schools Week – Open House had a great turnout, and the Used Uniform Sale was a success, with \$409 raised. Please be reminded to only bring sellable uniform items. Anything ripped, stained, RBC, non-uniform items then have to be disposed of by us, and we do not have the space for it.

**SJAA:** Terry Bolan

- Run with the Royals 5K – Will be taking place on Saturday, April 11 at Thompson Park in Lincroft. The ½-Mile Fun Run begins at 10:30am, the 5K Race begins at 11:00am. Money raised will fund uniforms, fees, and referees for all sports. This is the fourth year for the race which was previously held at Wolf Hill Park. This new venue at Thompson Park provides a flat, paved course, so hopefully that will bring more people out to participate. RBC hosted a successful 5K there in the fall. Jersey Shore Running Club helps with organizing and running the event, so you can register online on their website [jsrc.com](http://jsrc.com) or you can mail in a registration form. Each registered runner receives a T-shirt. The After-Party will be held at Val's Tavern in Rumson, with live music by John Rafferty. This year, there will be a classroom competition to get students involved in running – There will be a pizza party for the homeroom with the highest percentage of participation in the race, and that teacher will receive a gift card. There will also be face painting and other kid-friendly games taking place to occupy the younger kids during the race.

**Vice President's Report:** Jeanne O'Connor

- St. Patrick's Day Social – Adults-only event to foster comradery and school spirit is being held Saturday, March 7 at 8:00pm in the school cafeteria. Tickets are \$15 per person in advance and include beer, wine, soda and food. After March 1, the price increases to \$20 per person. There will be fun door prizes, John Rafferty will be the musical entertainment, and the Progressive Raffle winner will be drawn at 10:00pm. More people will need to register in advance for the event this week as we cannot solely rely on walk-ups, so an eblast will be sent out this week.

**Spirituality:** Christian Buckman

- Mother's Retreat – Will take place on Saturday, March 28 from 8:00am-12:00pm in the Eck Center. All women are welcome. The day begins with Mass at St. James Church at 8:00am, and then all will walk over to the Eck Center for the remainder of the morning. The topic is "The Power of Praying in the Family". The cost is \$20 per person. Christian asked for \$500 to cover food, decorations, and supplies, which was approved by Laurie Williams and Liz Coscia.

**Recording Secretary's Report:** Laurie Williams

Attendance of Executive Officers:

Paula Pangilinan – present  
Jeanne O'Connor – present  
Dana Franznick – not present  
Laurie Williams – present  
Fay Eigenrauch – present  
Lisa Noonan – present  
Mary Asfendis – present

January 14, 2015 Executive Meeting Minutes approved by Ann Mazza and Liz Coscia.

**Corresponding Secretary's Report:** Fay Eigenrauch

- Will be following up with sympathy for Dana Franznick's mother, Liz Coscia's father, and James Pritzlaff.
- All thank-yous for donations, etc. at school events and activities come from Fay, so please let her know if you have anyone to thank for their generosity.
- Dress Share – With so many events requiring dresses for the girls (Father—Daughter Dance, Reconciliation, First Communion, etc.), it can be a financial burden for some. We can host a day here next school year at no cost where people can donate their dresses (in good condition), and girls can come choose a dress that they can wear to an event.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lisa Noonan

- As of the beginning of February, the account stands at \$33, 983, so we are in great shape. The bulk of that money will go to the new textbooks with the online components and the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade events.
- Liz Coscia asked about looking into the cost of a new, modern electronic sign for in front of the school. Mr. Cardone will research the different types of signs, keeping in mind the location of the sign, power

required, and accessibility. It would improve the exterior appearance of the school, and is worth looking into during a year where we are doing well financially.

**Marketing/Legislative Affairs:** Liz Coscia

Hulafrog's Most Loved Contest 2015 – St. James won #1 private school and #1 preschool

Liz will continue to promote all St. James School events across the local platforms.

**Hospitality Committee:** Ann Mazza

Handled the hospitality for tonight's meeting as well as during Catholic Schools Week.

**Royals:** Ken Keyes

- Polar Plunge – A very successful event this year, with 63 plungers total, including 41 students and 8 teachers. The event netted a \$12,000 profit after expenses. Saint James placed 4<sup>th</sup> out of 26 schools with most money raised. The T-shirt design and layout was donated by Rob Lowe, and it became a popular commodity, helping to increase registrations. There were 12 sponsors represented on the shirt. Mrs. Browne placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the teacher competition, raising \$1299, with Miss Nelsen and Mrs. Gray coming in just behind. A pizza party was held for Mrs. Browne's class. Miss Nelsen threw her own pizza party to thank her class with some of the extra money she had, but the PTA gave her the money back since her class did a great job supporting her.

- Basketball Blowout – The event showed a good turnout, with \$1553 raised. Fewer Dress Down passes were sold this year than last year. They used a new DJ, who also owns Shore Flicks, which provides on-site movie viewings. The Royals would like to explore hiring him for a Movie Night social event for the school, to be held in the school gym.

- The Royals are looking for volunteers to help with traffic, parking, etc. at Run with the Royals on April 11 at Thompson Park.

**Committee/Events Reports and Updates**

**Father/Daughter Dance:** Tiffany Havard

- Sunday, March 1 from 1:00-4:00pm at Beacon Hill Country Club. 215 people are attending. There will be valet parking for the dads to allow for a smooth arrival and departure. Kathleen Robinson generously donated items, as did the Red Bank Chocolate Shoppe, so the committee will submit a list of businesses to thank in support of Saint James to Fay Eigenrauch.

**After-School Clubs:** Lindsay Horowitz

- Taking place on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the month of March for grades K-5. Registration was pushed back due to low numbers. Paint-A-Tee and Irish Dance were newly added this year, but they are showing low numbers. The PTA would like to make every effort to avoid canceling any clubs for those students who have an interest in participating. There has also been a struggle to find parent volunteers

since they can no longer volunteer for points. They currently have only 4 parents, and will need at least 1 more. Parent volunteers are needed to take the children to the off-site clubs. There are plenty of student volunteers, and they can handle the in-house clubs.

**Mother-Son Outing:** Lisa Goga

- Lakewood BlueClaws Game at 7:00pm on Friday, May 8. The deal includes a reduced-price ticket (\$10 adult/\$8 child) and discounted food vouchers, which will be picked up at the will call window on the day of the event. 50 tickets are being held, so they will need to have some money approved to hold the seats, and they are trying to get seats on the 3<sup>rd</sup> base side, near the playground. Mr. Gray is unavailable that day to take pictures, so they would like to extend the opportunity to Deanna Ryan next.

**Mother-Daughter Tea:** Kathleen Robinson

- Would like to gauge if there is an overall interest (8<sup>th</sup> Grade is already too busy and not interested). Kathleen has been exploring options with the McLoone's restaurants, but as time progresses, we are limited on dates. We would need to decide soon to book a place for April on a Sunday from 1:00-4:00pm, keeping in mind that Easter and break fall in the beginning of April. Also, First Communion is May 2. The majority of attendees two years ago were 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders, and there were a number of Kindergartners there too (the event was not held last year).

**Care Steps:** Elaine Goumas

- Elaine stressed that we do not have to go far to make a difference; we can help people right here in our community, and the children feel it more when they can see it firsthand. Therefore, Lunch Break is very grateful for all that Saint James School has been doing. On March 26, and again in April, Care Steps will be serving food, cleaning dishes, and sorting through donated clothes at Lunch Break. May 1 will be the school-wide Day of Giving at Lunch Break, as previously discussed by Mr. Cardone. This Friday, February 27, Care Steps is making dinner at Ronald McDonald House to provide for those families who are dealing with sick children. It is truly rewarding for the students to see how fortunate they are.

**Talent Show:** Paula Pangilinan

- Will take place in April. A flyer will go out this week with more information, including mandatory dates for participation.

**PTA Meeting February 25, 2015 Attendance**

Mr. William Cardone  
Mrs. JoAnn Giordano  
Paula Pangilinan  
Jeanne O'Connor  
Laurie Williams  
Lisa Noonan  
Ann Mazza  
Christian Buckman  
Liz Coscia  
Mary Asfendis  
Lindsay Horowitz  
Lisa Goga  
Elaine Goumas  
Ken Keyes  
Terry Bolan  
Lori Dougherty  
Tiffany Havard  
Shari Gagliardo  
Jane McLoughlin  
Kathleen Robinson