

St James PTA Minutes
Wednesday, January 14, 2015
8:15 AM in the School Library

Paula Pangilinan called the meeting to order

Opening Prayer: Mr. Cardone

Principal's Report: Mr. Cardone

- Mr. Cardone reported that all is going well. There will be two half days next week following Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday as the schedule is in cooperation with the RBC exam schedule. Teachers will be in-service on those days.
- AdvancED is the accreditation program for the Northeast Region, which covers elementary, high school and college accreditation and will replace our Middle States accreditation. AdvancED provides schools with a systematic and comprehensive evaluative approach using stakeholder input, to design and develop effective school improvement plans. The information gathered from the school's evaluation will be shared with the Diocese of Trenton. The Diocese will use the information gathered from all of the Diocesan schools to evaluate itself.

Our first phase of surveys focused on the school's Catholic Identity. The second phase focused on learning, instruction and the school's purpose. We are currently in the process of evaluating our school based on the survey responses. The evaluation process will be completed by May 2015. In November (1st through the 4th) our school will be visited by a team, from AdvancED or the Diocese, who will review our evaluations and supporting evidence. The team will determine if our self-evaluation accurately reflects our school as it is today, and evaluate the school's long term goals and improvement plans.

(This bullet was composed by Mrs. Giordano in order to better explain the program and its process.)

- Basketball Blowout and Polar Plunge both went very well. Mr. Cardone pointed out that he much prefers being silly stringed, which is easier than jumping into the cold ocean in January, but he is very happy about the success of both events.

President's Report: Paula Pangilinan

- Paula thanked everyone for all of their hard work over the past two months. We have successfully engaged many people this year and they are willingly stepping into volunteer roles. We need to keep that momentum going through the end of the school year.
- There are two issues that need to be addressed going forward:
 1. Directory – the electronic version did not work due to security issues, so we need to come up with a better plan for next school year. For now, the class parents have been doing a good job of communicating the class information.

2. Fundraising Idea Submission – We needed a year to smooth out the new PTA setup, but going forward we will need to establish a way for ideas to be submitted. People have been coming up with some great ideas and plans, so there is enthusiasm that we should foster.

- Ice Skating Party – will be held Wednesday, February 11 from 1:15-2:45pm at the Red Bank Armory, coordinated by Lisa Swabsin. The snack bar will be open at 12:30pm and the cost is \$9.50 per person, including skate rental.

- Mother/Son Outing – coordinated by Lisa Goga and Dulce Arce. They have looked into a Lakewood Blueclaws game again and have come up with two options: tickets that include the game and eating in the picnic area, or for a less expensive option, game tickets with a food voucher where the seats will all be together, but there will be no access to the picnic area. Dates they will choose from will be the end of April/beginning of May, while keeping in mind First Communion on May 2 and Mother's Day on May 10. Some PTA members thought bowling might be a fun idea for an outing in an effort to avoid youth baseball conflicts, and allow for more mother/son interaction by playing on teams together. Paula encouraged anyone with ideas and thoughts to share them with Lisa and Dulce.

- After-School Clubs – coordinated by Lindsay Horowitz and Janine Lowe. Clubs include Legos, Paint-A-Tee, and A Time to Kiln. The clubs will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays in March (will not be held on Tuesday March 17). They are working to get parents and student helpers to volunteer, especially for Legos.

- Catholic Schools Week – highlights on the calendar:

1. New Parent Open House – Tuesday, January 27. Students will give tours of the building, classes, etc. No need for hospitality that day.
2. Student Appreciation Day – Wednesday, January 28. Students will be allowed to wear SJS spirit wear. For the teachers who plunged, their students will get a voucher for ice cream from the cafeteria. The teacher raising the most money will receive the \$500 Visa gift card prize.
3. Teacher Appreciation Day – Thursday, January 29. PTA provides lunch for the teachers.
4. Parent Visitation – Friday, January 30. Student Council Ambassadors will be directing parents around the school. No need for hospitality.
5. Used Uniform Sale – Friday, January 30. Set-up will begin at 8am, sale from 9-11am during Parent Visitation, cleanup to follow until about noon. Dana Franznick will ask Class Parents to send out an email asking for volunteers to help.

- Father/Daughter Dance – there was a request made to include preschool through 8th grade in the dance, making for a very wide age range. The PTA agrees that it would be too much for a preschooler, and should be for grades K-8. PTA will offer help and support for the preschool Mother's Day Tea and Dad's Gone Fishing Day.

Royals: Dana Franznick

- Basketball Blowout – The event raised \$1500, more of which was in attendance and less from the gear. It was a fun night with a lot of school spirit.

- Polar Plunge – A very successful event this year. The goal was to raise \$10,000, which was surpassed as we netted approximately \$12,000. Last year, the event only raised \$3400. Over 125 people earned shirts by either plunging or pledging a minimum of \$50. There were over 55 plungers this year. Looking ahead to next year, better communication will be needed on the T-shirts. There were a lot of Polar Plunge registrations at the Basketball Blowout, and in fact, they sold out of Polar Plunge T-shirts. There is a

waiting list of 34 people for more to be printed. The shirt was a great color and really stood out on the beach at the event. The Saint James School flags made it easy to spot the SJS group gathering at Pier Village. There was great involvement and enthusiasm all around. The Teacher Contest ended Monday after the Plunge. Next year we should consider extending it through the week and communicating where the contest stands to generate even more donations. The PTA would also like to look into donating a pop-up tent to SJAA for this event.

Father/Daughter Dance Update: Tiffany Havard and Jamie Monaghan

- Vendor Deposits went out this week.
- The invitations have come in from Red Bank Stationary and will be distributed (one per family, not each girl) this week.
- They need 8 volunteers to help during the event. Dana Franznick asked them to send her an email with their needs which she will disseminate to the Class Parents.
- Red Bank Chocolate Shoppe is donating 3D chocolate Eiffel Tower centerpieces. There will be a drawing for them at the end of the dance. Each girl will receive a door prize ticket at check-in with a number on it, and they must be present to win it. The favor is going to be a chocolate Eiffel Tower lollipop which will be paid for.
- Prior to the meal, an 8th grade girl will read a poem, and her dad will read a prayer. Reader will be chosen at random by name out of a hat.
- Going to inquire with Antoinette Boulangerie to see if she can donate French pastries. We are willing to allow her to brand it, put out business cards, etc. Our parents are loyal to supporters of the school, so a good marketing tool for her. All businesses that support our events are thanked on the school website and in eblasts out to 650 people. We will also send a thank you note from Mrs. Giordano to all supporting businesses.
- There will also be a ticket given to each girl at check-in for the photo booth. There will be a volunteer stationed there to ensure each girl gets the chance to go at least once.
- The Dance Chairs would like to donate prizes to be raffled off (it is not a fundraiser). They have an Eiffel Tower jewelry stand that will go to an 8th Grade winner, and a 2015 American Girl of the Year for the other grades.

Recording Secretary's Report: Laurie Williams

Attendance of Executive Officers:

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

December 10, 2014 Executive Meeting Minutes approved by Dana Franznick and Liz Coscia.

Marketing/Legislative Affairs: Liz Coscia

We need an updated list of donors following Breakfast with Santa, Grandparents Tea, and Polar Plunge so we aren't hitting up the same businesses for every event.

PTA Meeting January 14, 2015 Attendance

Mr. William Cardone
Paula Pangilinan
Jeanne O'Connor
Dana Franznick
Laurie Williams
Lisa Noonan
Ann Mazza
Liz Coscia
Maria Rimmele