

Parent Council Meeting Minutes  
November 10, 2020

**Members Present:** Marit Ortega, Pam McBroom, Connie Thielen, Jennifer Doschadis, Daina O'Brien, Dena Heen, Donnie Robinson, Jen Buckentine, Kerry Youso, Lana Kozak, Laurie Larson, Nancy Deaton, Sarah Jane Nicoll, Tammy Schefers, Ruth Kuhlman, Cheryl Woodruff, Dion Hansen, Sandy Baldwin, Gwen Pedersen, Mark Donlin, Erika Biberg, Kris Lawrence, Lisa Drong, Helga Bauerly, Kim Phan, Claudia Revermann

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 am by Marit Ortega. She led the group in prayer.

**Agenda:** Agenda was reviewed. Tammy Schefers motioned to approve the agenda. Pam McBroom seconded. Motion carried.

**Minutes:** The minutes were provided for review. Jennifer Doschadis motioned to approve the minutes. Tammy Schefers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Treasurer Report:** The treasurer's report was reviewed. Current balance is \$12,436.42. Pam McBroom made a motion to approve the agenda. seconded. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

- a. November staff care gift: Pam shared that in October, Vicki made dessert treats and Pam and Lana included coffee, tea and cocoa in the treats offered to the staff/teachers. The plan for November is to give flowers to female staff and a coffee gift card to male staff. These items are being paid for by the donation fund from parents as well as some donated by the businesses involved.

b. NO December meeting

c. Staff Christmas Gifts: Based on our "Green Sheet" donations at the beginning of the year and allows us to give gift cards around the total of \$72. We generally round the amount up to a reasonable close amount using existing Parent Council funds. Pam McBroom made a motion for this amount to be rounded up to \$75 per staff person/teacher. Kris Lawrence seconded the motion and the motion was carried. This topic was revisited later in the meeting after a discussion about how hard our staff and teachers have been working very hard and many hours providing both distance and in-person curriculums for our children. Helga Bauerly suggested that we consider giving more towards these holiday gifts. Marit stated we do generally give \$50-\$55 but we have a hefty balance in our account. Dena Heen pointed out that we generally give money to activities (such as Prom) that may not happen this year and suggested we can use funnel the prom funds to these staff gifts. Marit suggested we consider giving \$100 to each staff person/teacher. Jennifer Doschadis calculated this amount and it would mean using an additional \$2093 from Parent Council funds (instead of \$168, if we give \$75) in addition to the money donated by parents from the Green Sheets. Marit Ortega made a motion to give \$100 gift cards to each staff person and teacher as a holiday gift. Lana Kozak seconded and the motion was carried.

d. No Santa for students and candy cane distribution.

**Old Business:**

a. CHS Parent Council Member Phone Directory: Directories were distributed 10/26. Parent Council members who did not receive the directory they ordered can email Tamara as she has additional copies.

b. Digital Phone Directory sent to all new CHS families.

c. Parent Conference Meal: Pam McBroom reported that Vicki will make boxed meals and distribute them to all teachers on the night of the conference.

c. CHS Parent Council Treasurer for 2020-21 School Year: Jennifer Doschadis, who is currently the Treasurer, has offered to change to the Secretary position, and then we would need someone to be the Treasurer. Jennifer stated that the Treasurer does not require much work and is essentially a liaison between the parent council members and Emmett (who keeps track of the council balance), prints out the financial document to hand out at the parent council meeting, cashes the check for staff Christmas gifts and just generally keeps an eye on the account to make sure the numbers are accurate. If you would like further detail about this position, you may email Jennifer at [jdoschadis@yahoo.com](mailto:jdoschadis@yahoo.com).

e. Staff Experience – Daina O’Brien will be offering meditation videos in Jan, Feb, March to staff, free of charge, as another way to offer our appreciation for all of their hard work for our children.

d. Speakers for the year. Feb-April. Daina O’Brien will be speaking at our next meeting in January regarding meditation. Marit asked if anyone had any suggestions for February on? Dena Heen suggested the topic of parent support as we face the challenges of distance learning in the coming months. Mark Donlin, who is a retired Chaplin having worked at the St. Cloud Hospital, had several suggestions that relate to how we can create community among parents at this time. These include: 1st: Holding parallel parent retreats to the retreats that our children are attending during school in order to help parents support their kids spiritually. 2nd: he suggested that we can help kids become aware of how much their home parishes are contributing financially to their education at Cathedral and suggested that we help these students find a way to show their appreciation for this. 3rd: he suggests that we consider creating a prayer request calendar for which an email would be sent to the CHS community asking for specific teachers, staff or fellow parents to be the focus of our prayers and to provide spiritual support to that person. He suggested members can look up the Cokeville Miracle in which they had a situation in their school and the community directed their prayers toward that situation. 4th: Mark Donlin, suggested that we consider ways to launch our children into the spiritual community where they are headed following graduation from high school. He felt that if we help our kids find a place in the spiritual community in their colleges this is a great way to make friends and would help to nourish their spirit.

At this point in the meeting we returned to the discussion of the staff Christmas gifts. Once this was resolved (see above), Dena Heen asked if there was also a way that we can do something for our students during this stressful time. As an example, she said at SKD their PTA is planning to give St. Nicholas gift of fruit that would normally be given while they are in school. This year if they are in distance learning it will be given out in their school work packets that are picked up by parents weekly. Suggestions were: coffee gift cards, Game Stop card, Amazon gift card. Gwen suggested that Game Stop might not work for all students as they do not all game but Amazon, Target and coffee cards might. Sandy Baldwin shared that the Campus Ministers are planning to organize a Zoom Bingo event in order to help them stay connected during distance learning. She feels that there are kids who are not involved in sports and other clubs that may like some social connection during this upcoming time when they might be isolated. Sandy plans to talk with the Campus Ministers about this and will ask them to come up with ideas that might help this. Marit said that if there is anything that Parent Council can offer financially to help with these things, we can communicate by email since we don’t have a meeting until January. Members shared their concerns about the anxieties our kids are feeling (getting Covid or unknowingly spreading it to other) and missing their friends when they cannot be in school. It was shared that Reed Mauriala and Bridget Hamak were our speakers last month on this topic and the recording of their presentation can be found on the Cathedral website under the Parent Council tab. Sandy Baldwin also reminded us that if we see a teacher conducting a Zoom class that doesn’t seem to be educational it may still be an activity that is intended to support the students’ emotional health or take a break from screens.

**Adjournment** Tammy Schefers motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dena Heen seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

**The next meeting is:** January 12, 2021 at 11:30 am. The Guest Speaker will be: Daina O’Brien speaking about Meditation 101

Respectfully submitted by: Katie Schad, Parent Council Secretary