

St Mary's Academy PTA Meeting

March 5, 2019 6:30pm

Attendees – Karen Staring, Tara Nolan, Gina Natale, Tessa Heyer

Welcome –

- Overview of Objectives
- Introduction of coordinators and attendees
- Discussion about a teacher Liaison
 - Miss Kowalski has expressed interest and accepted this role
 - Get teachers involved to share ideas, student and school needs

Upcoming Events –

- **Mother/Son Basketball** – Saturday, March 23rd 6-8pm
 - 5th
 - Simple food such as pizza, oranges, mini cupcakes and carafes of water
 - 45 minutes of games, 30 minutes for food (boys to clean up), 45 minutes for additional games
 - What to see what the sign up response is to determine how to divide the attendees into teams
 - What games should be played? Scrimmage, horse, free throw contest? Contest for most creative teams
 - Who can be coaches or refs? Are there any teachers who might like to volunteer? Is there a CYO team or any alumni who would be interested in coming back to play or ref? Should we consider asking students from public school to volunteer who might need volunteer hours?
 - Flyer for this even has been sent to the school office. Need to change the RSVP date from 3/18 to 3/14 with the hopes of receiving most responses before the 4 day weekend. Send a reminder e-mail on 3/19 for those who forgot to send in response.
 - Need to create a sign up sheet for volunteers
- **Father/Daughter Dance** -Saturday, April 6th (Time TBD)
 - Currently assigned to PreK 4 AND 2ND Grade. Budget is currently \$300 for this event.
 - Decision made to move forward without a theme in order to minimize cost. Use tablecloths and balloons.
 - Would like to have a station for photos
 - Simple food and snacks needed – popcorn, mini cupcakes, carafes of water, cheese and fruit?
 - Need games or organized activities that are appropriate for all ages (pre-k through 6). Musical chairs, cheese ball game are just a few ideas. Typically have a craft station which requires a volunteer to supervise (picture frames to decorate). Also discussed the idea of teaching the kids some dances such as the electric slide or macarena. Are there

any alumni who might be interested in teaching. Also discussed the idea of using “Go Noodle” with a projector.

- Discussed getting by without a DJ as long as we have an appropriately created playlist and speakers.
- Discussed getting small flowers for the Dads to give to the girls. Boces used to have a floral design class. Do they still and could we work with them to minimize cost? Nearest Boces is on Thompson Rd.
- Need to create a sign up sheet for volunteers.
- **Teacher Appreciation Week** – tabled until next meeting
 - What should we do (events for teachers), should each class be in charge of an event? Volunteers needed
- **Penny Carnival** – tabled until next meeting

New Event Ideas –

- In search of after school activities that are not sports related
- Shades or Orange Art Studio – used to come to school, could we get them to come back
- Ceramics painting

Fundraisers –

- **Can and Bottle Drive** -the 6th grade used to do this as a class fundraiser but they are not this year so can it be used as a school wide fundraiser to help offset the cost of PTA hosted events? We could sign up with a local can and bottle drop off location. This is a common and well supported fundraiser used by many groups throughout local neighborhoods. No cost to families.
- **Book Fair** – Barnes and Noble offers these. Host the event at one of their stores, gives a kick back to our school. Need to talk to Barnes and Noble to determine the process. We could have a table near the front of the store with parent volunteers and ask for teacher volunteers to read stories in the kids book section. This could function as good PR and marketing for SMA in addition to a fundraiser.
- **Garage Sale Day** for village of Baldwinsville – we could sell parking spaces in the SMA parking lot for anyone wishing to participate in the garage sale.
- **Pizza Fridays** -the 6th grade class is trying this during lent. Could we try this on every Friday throughout the year with the proceeds going to the PTA? How would we do this? Wait to see if it is successful for 6th grade.
- **T-shirt company and website** that we used for tie dye shirts just before Christmas. SMA made \$315 off of the sale of 64 shirts. Can we build off of this and offer more through this company and website?
- ***Would like to build up to a large scale fundraiser or social event for the 2019 – 2020 school year. What should this event be?***

Volunteer Participation (also goes part and parcel with new event ideas) – How do we get more people involved and reach out to new families? We need to improve communication. What is the best avenue for doing this?

- **Parents Night Out** – In search of ideas for this event. A way for parents to meet and get to know each other in a social setting. Can we work with a local eatery to host this event? Spoke to Pizza Man Pub in the past and he was very receptive to the idea. Try to organize this event to be held between teacher appreciation week and the penny carnival, possibly outside in nicer weather.
- **Host regular (monthly) meetings** and post meeting minutes as a PDF for transparency. Send out meeting agenda and reminders 1 week in advance of next meeting.
- **Remind App** – a reminder messaging service. Parents join the service. Used to remind parents of PTA related events.
- **Google website or classroom** specifically for PTA -parents could join and then receive notifications. Could also post meeting minutes in this location, host a PTA e-mail address for PTA specific questions and ideas, post a calendar or events for the year and include who each event is assigned to, etc.

Yearbook – The deadline is fast approaching, when is it?

- we are yearbook photo deficient. Need pictures for activities pages and for each class. Need to make sure all students are included.
- Ask teachers to send 4 or 5 of their favorite pictures of their class from the year
- Need to send a reminder to remind parents to personalize year book pages for their children

Next Meeting – Wednesday, March 20th at 6:30pm

Meeting Adjourned- 8:30pm