

**Bishop O'Connell High School**  
**PTO Meeting Minutes**  
Monday February 5, 2018

In attendance: Karen Becht, Ann Brinkmann, Amy Stephenson, Carl Patton, Frank Roque, Jean Marie McFaden, Ron Isaacson, Kim Aubry, Suzanne Campbell, Laura Hales, Claire Hosker, Terri Lynn Wootten, Natasha Rocheleau, Regina Allegra, Marylou Bergeron, and Diane Black.

The PTO Meeting scheduled for January 8, 2018, was cancelled due to a snow day.

The meeting was called to order by PTO President Karen Becht.

**Opening Prayer:** The opening prayer was offered by Laura Hales.

**School Update:** Carl Patton, Frank Roque, and Anne Marie McFaden  
Mr. Patton:

The Number of applications for the next school year are ahead of last year, and the last four years. The registration process will be moving to online, including class signups and payment. The goal is to have classes assigned before the school year is out with students and families receiving schedules before the end of this academic year. The curriculum update effort is ongoing. There is an effort to ensure religion classes are aligned to the Bishop's Framework. The Health and PE curriculum is also being updated over the next few years. The audit effort for identifying books for each course is ongoing. There is a desire to select books common across courses, and balance the requirements for new books with parent investments. There was feedback on one of the admission questions and Carl Patton will follow-up with Admissions to provide the feedback.

Mr. Roque - Uniforms

New uniforms will be a two year process with the goal of establishing a more professional, crisper look. Samples of the new uniforms were shared with the PTO. Flynn and O'Hara will continue to be the source for uniforms. The girls uniform will include a kilt and the boys will include gray pants. Both include a new navy sweater with the Bishop O'Connell logo in white. Rising juniors will be required to wear the new uniforms. Rising seniors will be grandfathered in to have the option of wearing the current uniforms. Rising sophomores will also be able to wear the current uniforms as the school transitions to a more formal BYOD policy next school year requiring

rising sophomores and incoming freshmen to purchase a school approved device. More information to come once all is finalized.

Mrs McFaden - BYOD policy

The school is working on a formalized BYOD policy, beginning with incoming freshman and rising sophomores. The policy is still being developed and will include key system requirements for screen size, full size keyboard, built in or wifi mouse, etc. Technical requirements are being finalized along with a list of potential sources for parents. The school will be rolling out a FAQ for parents. The school will not be purchasing the devices on behalf of students, but recommend laptops versus Chrome Books. Every student will be required to register their device with the school. Required software will be licensed by the school and made available for the devices including Office 265 and Google for Education. A stop theft service will be offered for the devices. The ability to lock devices in lockers for students that might be involved in afterschool activities where they will not have their laptop with them is also being evaluated. Estimated costs for the devices are \$300-350 for the hardware but this is only an estimate. It was suggested that new students be made aware and the information will be included in the acceptance packet. More details will be forthcoming when the policy is finalized.

**Minutes for Approval:** Motion to approve November minutes -Mary Lou Bergeron and Ann Brinkmann second the motion.

**PTO General Business:** Karen Becht

Event dates for 2018-2019 school calendar are due tonight.

PTO meetings will continue to be the first Monday of the month.

Save the Date -Registration Night is Thursday, March 15th and PTO has been asked to help.

Orientation Sessions - PTO parents will also be needed for these events. It was suggested that an O'Connell Hack be created - things you need to know as a new parents but may not necessarily hear from administration. Transfer students have two orientations - looking at data from the past four years, one is first quarter and the second is the beginning of second quarter.

Welcome BBQ in August - hoping to add Regional Communities to the event

Used Book Sale - received parent feedback, discussed how we could make it more welcoming and efficient and the exigency to address the sale at Orientations so that parents are made aware of what you need to know prior to the event. Suggested that a General Information Sheet be created - with a book list that corresponds with the course catalog online. Important to have IT on-site during the sale.

Update on the By-laws - will be reviewed in March.

**Dad's Club:** Karen Becht

Meeting Thursday, February 8th at 7:00p.m. at the Knights of Columbus. Dad's huddle - creating an agenda, by-laws and organization - looking towards 2018-2019 school year.

**Regional Communities:** Ann Brinkmann

Community B has a potluck brunch scheduled for March 18, 2018.

Communities DJO have already held either a social or service event with twenty to twenty-five people in attendance.

Considering an All Communities event in the Spring - perhaps the 5K?

Christine Spann is leading a Couch to 5K Club for students and families - an email will be sent to parents and information will also be in the Blitz.

Communities are asked to hold one social event in the spring and include new students. A meeting will be held with the leads in order to create similar events and budgets.

PTO will host another "Dinner & a Show" inviting all families to an event tied into the spring theatre production. More details to come.

**March for Me** - Laura Hales

Shared the article from the Catholic Herald - students visited four different parishes and offered to march spiritually for those that could not attend the March for Life - carried the names of those for whom they were marching -received positive feedback. Reminds people of the importance of the March.

Father Thompson and Laura are checking the website.

**Communications:** Suzanne Campbell

Notes in Blitz about events.

Please send photos - in the process of creating a photo album.

Additions to website - O'Connell Hack with Used Book Sale Tips

Help has been requested for the Mental Health Symposium on Saturday, February 10th - seeing new volunteers so that is great.

Asked that you let her know if you see anything that is not working on the website - links, etc.

Please help by taking a peek from time to time.

**Finance** - Amy Stephenson

Budget powerpoint to be reviewed at the March meeting - will send in Google docs for review.

**Faculty Representative:** Frank Isaacson

Teachers Lounge - received new microwave

Remind parents to check DJO accounts and follow-up with kids - will clarify request.

**Other Business:** Terri Lynn Wootten

Shared that the O-Zone is looking for HUGE community support for one of our sophomores - Jake Berry, who has been diagnosed with cancer and is going through chemo,

#Jake, #Jake Strong - all remaining Home basketball games will be for Jake.

Meals are not needed at this time, but the community is doing spiritual bouquets.

Jake will be included in the Knights Intercessors Prayer Connection.

**Closing Prayer:** Laura Hales

**The meeting was adjourned by PTO President Karen Becht**