

Bishop O'Connell High School
PTO Meeting Minutes
Monday November 6, 2017

In attendance: Joe Vorbach, Carl Patton, Erin O'Malley, Karen Becht, Ann Brinkmann, Claire Hosker, Laura Hales, Natasha Rocheleau, Regina Allegra, Suzanne Campbell, Terri Lynn Wootten, Amy Stephenson, and Diane Black

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by PTO President Karen Becht.

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

School Update:

IgKnight the Vision Campaign: Dr. Joe Vorbach

Began by thanking the PTO for all that they do for the O'Connell community.

Introduced the campaign and explained that we are currently in the leadership/silent phase. The new building will contain thirteen modern/flexible classrooms with an atrium style main entrance and front plaza. A cross will be embedded in the front glass of the entrance. Additionally, a new chapel that will seat up to 180 people will be part of the renovation. In designing the chapel, the structure and design of Ireland chapels were considered since Bishop Denis J. O'Connell was born in County Cork, Ireland. Former chaplains, as well as Father Thompson and Bishop Burbidge, contributed their thoughts and ideas. The layout of the building will change with administration, counseling, and the nurse's office on the first floor.

The IHM Sisters will be relocated to a home within the O'Connell neighborhood in Mid-December. Everyone will be invited to get involved when the time is right. The annual fund doubled in the past three years but the hope is that people will continue to contribute to the annual fund and additionally, the campaign - both are important.

Bishop Michael Burbidge and Mr. Naill are honorary co-chairs of the IgKnight the Vision campaign.

PTO General Business: Karen Becht

By Laws and budget Update - progressing

Father's Club: Dr. Joe Vorbach

Dr. Vorbach met with members of the club and shared that they have a lot of enthusiasm and energy. O'Connell always needs voices for the school. They may be a source to communicate the Annual fund - with an understanding of the goals. Hoping to provide the opportunity for the club to be known for something in particular related to the school - volunteer need. Reminded everyone

that there is a planning calendar and a fundraising calendar within the school. The next Father's Club meeting is scheduled for December 13th.

Regional Communities: Ann Brinkmann

Currently have at least one family in all four groups to serve as the mentor for the group. Kick-Off dinner is Saturday night, November 11th - hoping that this new idea will build community.

School Update Continued:

Erin O'Malley

Survey to new students was sent out to determine what can be done to help with the transition to O'Connell. Sophomore focus groups will be going on this week - provides feedback.

Freshman Teacher Meeting was held with teachers and counselors earlier this month - one of the greatest things that came out of the meeting, is that the Freshman class is very supportive of one another and looks out for each other. Parent Coffees will occur on Tuesday, November 14th at 8:30 a.m. in the school library and again on Wednesday, November 15th at 6:00p.m. in the school auditorium. The topic is an important one -Suicide and Self-Harm and will be presented by Erin O'Malley and Sarah Stuhlman. February 10th is the Mental Health Symposium. TerriLynn Wootten offered to add the event to the volunteer sign-up genius.

Carl Patton:

Open House was successful. There is a huge number of shadows visiting O'Connell and a number of applications have already been sent in for the Class of 2022. At registration, there will be links that parents can access to become involved in the community. Jeanmarie McFadden has been studying BYOD to possibly become more of a one to one program. She has a couple of consultants working with her on this project. Meetings with teachers continue to discuss books, curriculums, and the best way to engage students. Uniform committee has been established and includes parents and students, in addition to faculty. The question was posed as to whether or not it would be beneficial to have a second semester sale - as students grow out of uniforms.

Communications: Suzanne Campbell

There is updated content on the PTO website including a news article - hoping to do more of these and include photos. Please take photos of events so that they may be added. Looking for assistance in fixing the links on the parent page within Parent Portal - appears that when an update on the website occurs, some links are broken.

when an update on the website occurs, some links are broken.

Finance: Amy Stephenson

Amy shared the Used Book Sale numbers - \$58,000 profit.

All Night Grad Party: Natasha Rocheleau and Regina Allegra

Grad signs are in and will sell for \$20 - cash or checks. The first opportunity will be at the Father/Daughter Dance on December 6th and at Senior heavy events later in the school year. The committee is still in need of volunteers.

Faculty Representative: Ron Isaacson

Request was made to include the Mass on the invitation for the Faculty Breakfast in December.

Fine Arts Booster: Karen Becht

Great trip scheduled for New Orleans - seventy-eight kids will be going. Karen brought up students with financial need - 35% of the student body receive aid. Is there a discreet way to know - not involving other parents, but someone that could determine a family's financial ability that could then be used towards athletics and fine arts to help alleviate awkward situations and conversations - asking kids for money?

Spiritual Life: Laura Hales

Laura suggested that a budget request be made so that the Spiritual Life Committee could purchase a quarter page yearbook ad for Seniors - a gentle reminder to take faith with you. Request approved. Shared information regarding Formed.org Parish code for O'Connell is TM732W.

Minutes for Approval: Motion to approve October minutes -Amy Stephenson and Ann Brinkmann second the motion.

Closing Prayer: Laura Hales

Karen Becht concluded the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

11/11 - Kick-Off Dinner for the Regional Communities

12/4 - IgKnight the Vision at 6:30p.m.

12/4 - PTO Meeting at 7:30p.m. in the Library

12/13 - Faculty Mass and Breakfast

1/8/2018 - PTO Meeting at 7:00p.m. in the Library

