



## Charger Parent Teacher Organization Meeting Minutes

*Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.*

- Opening Prayer led by teachers
- Leader In Me (Student Lighthouse Team)
  - Video with students giving examples of how they were leaders this week
  - Gold Star teacher awards can now be nominated
- Budget Review
  - No new teacher expenses or professional development have come in
  - St. Nick's shop was a loss of \$147.34 this year. This was in part due to delayed planning and gift purchasing due to Covid – gifts were not necessarily able to be purchased at cheaper, sale prices. This event is not intended to be a fundraiser, small loss viewed as ok for this year.
  - \$4,425 was contributed by families to the Scrip Christmas Fund and distributed to teachers and staff.
  - Teacher request for Bloxels will be voted on later tonight. It was pre-approved by St. Pat's administration when request came in in December due to timing to get items purchased before new semester and no CPTO meeting in December. If CPTO does not approve, would fund from elsewhere.
- Committee Updates
  - Volunteer Committee (Meagan Slee)
    - St. Nick's Shop recap
      - Loss this year, due in part to needing to go buy more gifts that sold out in certain categories
      - Not as many kids as normal shopped this year, not sure why (thought was that some of the older kids may have dropped out because their friends did, etc.)
      - Meagan indicated running the sale was fun, but a busy week
      - 591 gifts are leftover for next year, inventory list was given to Jackie in the office
      - Generally aim to have at least 1,000 gifts available for the sale each year, should start looking for next year's sale to take advantage of sale prices
      - Suggestions for the future: buy gifts earlier, Dollar Tree is a good option, put 8 lines on the sheet instead of 12 lines as some kids were shopping for a wide group (uncle's cat),

indicate on the sheet that the sale is geared towards shopping for immediate family rather than friends (older kids were shopping for classmates)

- Some kids wanted to buy the table decorations, thinking they looked nice even though they were not actually for sale
- Hopefully able to set up normally next year to keep it more straightforward and not take over someone's house
- Teacher opinion was that sale worked well taking kids from classrooms in small groups
- During this year's sale, the idea came up to "sponsor" gifts for kids to purchase whose families might not have been able to afford for them to take part. The office provided lists for kids in 5-6 families this year, which equaled around \$40 in gifts that CPTO covered the cost. The kids were amazed and appreciative.
  - Motion was made and passed to budget up to \$200 in the future for kids to shop that may not otherwise be able to, as identified by school office staff.

#### ■ Giving Tree recap

- It varied teacher to teacher on the amount of items purchased. It seems to depend in part on age level, with the younger grade teachers getting items more often, but not exclusively.
- Teachers expressed thanks for Giving Tree items and Scrip collection.
- Discussion of best timing for wish lists/giving tree – several other events/collections around Christmas; with online wish lists it would be possible to have ongoing lists that are not limited to one time of year; list could be publicized at Christmas, Catholic Schools' Week, Teacher Appreciation Week in May, etc.; lists will be left up for now, may consider announcing a closure later in spring to see if limiting the window or leaving lists open works better

#### ■ Peach Sale

- Molly Lahart and Mike W. have volunteered to coordinate this if want to do this year
- Ordering is generally before school's out with delivery in August
- Have had good turnout in the past for this fundraiser
- Targeted outreach on advertising is worth considering, discussed after last sale (2 yrs ago) since other parishes that have done something similar in the past have quit doing
- Online ordering would simplify and make it easier for those not connected to school to order
- Motion was made and passed for Molly and Mike to move forward with planning and contacting the grower

- Shamrock Shuffle
  - This could be done as a virtual event this year. Need to make determination soon if it is a go or not.
  - Virtual option could include suggested routes in town or treadmill
    - Adding a bike option was suggested and liked by several to increase appeal to broader group
  - Would it be a one day or weekend event?
  - This is mainly a break even event.
  - Activities were suggested to help create excitement and encourage families to participate
    - “Yard” signs for selfies (could then submit selfies online)
    - Contests and posting of stats
    - Kids wearing shirts to school on a school t-shirt day
  - Online sign up could incorporate t-shirt ordering, if people want running bibs, these could be printable
  - Currently need someone to head the committee. Several people volunteered to help, but no one volunteered to lead. Meagan and Lynette to reach out to those who have volunteered to see if someone is willing to coordinate.
  - Would need to decide how widely to publicize this year...just to St. Pat’s families or to community?
- 2<sup>nd</sup> semester activity for students?
  - Typical second semester activities are a movie for Pre-K thru 4<sup>th</sup> grade and a trivia night for grades 5-8. Covid will prevent the traditional events from happening this year.
  - Virtual trivia was discussed.
    - Could expand to all ages/families rather than just grades 5 – 8.
    - Online professional options for hosting trivia are available for purchase. Initial investigation appears it would cost \$300-400 and could handle 80-100 teams. More detailed investigation on options would be needed. There are also various programs teachers use that may work.
    - A small fee could be charged for participation to cover costs.
    - There is currently no one who has volunteered to lead an event of this type. Due to the planning required and lack of anyone to lead, this was tabled for now. Feeling was to try to get someone to lead Shamrock Shuffle and have that be the spring event to encourage families to participate in.

- Fundraising
  - Update on the Annual Appeal (Laura Dobson)
    - Surpassed initial goal of \$50,000 before December 31.
    - Trying to get to \$78,627 to meet/beat last year's total from the Annual Appeal and Main Event. 74% of the way there, need \$20,000 more. Large goal but hopeful that some people will still be contributing in new calendar year. Some mailers are being sent out.
    - Asking that everyone turns in their card to indicate their help in some way, whether financial, prayers, volunteer. Help is needed writing thank yous.
    - There will not be a virtual silent auction as there would be too much required to implement that virtually (time and software and donations). Asking that people consider monetary donations in place of auction donations or bidding.
  - Marketing Committee (Laura Dobson)
    - Admissions open houses are coming up. Two times are being offered for Kindergarten and one time for Clover Patch. Details are online. Advance sign up is required. Spread the word. There is also a referral button on the website if you would like to have the school send information to someone.
- Out of uniform pass
  - Date changed to Tuesday next week (Jan. 19) rather than Thursday to avoid conflict with the school's out of uniform day on Thursday collecting donations for charity.
- Report from the principal (Lynette Hackett)
  - Doing well back in school, no Covid surge has been seen post Christmas.
  - Kids loved Joe B. at presentations this week. Positive message and comments from students about being difference makers. Several parents shared feedback from kids and them using the phrase "I love your face."
    - An order form will be coming home for those who want to order his book or t-shirts.
    - He met with teachers after school. Several examples he gave are things they already do – playing music and greeting students in the morning (Covid temperature checks have really made this an individual conversation with each student each morning this year).
  - In addition to the virtual admission open houses, virtual coffee with the principal available on the website. After school tours are also an option for people considering the school.
- Teacher request from Lora Sink
  - Request for \$222.50 for bloxels (teach coding to kids by building a video game). Got a \$50 discount.
  - Approved.
- Comments about next year's budget shared – will depend on what comes in for Annual Appeal and how much of this year's CPTO budget is spent. School board will allocate later this year.

## **2020-2021 Meeting Schedule**

~~Sept. 12~~

~~Oct. 10~~

~~Nov. 12~~

~~Jan. 14~~

Feb. 11

April 8

May 13