

**St. Bernadette PTO Board Meeting Minutes**  
**May 17, 2017, 7pm, School Cafeteria**

I. Opening Prayer (Gary Fedorochko)

*Meeting began at 7:10pm*

II. Grade Representative Report (Mrs. Meghan Smith)

- Thank you to all room parents and volunteers who volunteered their time this school year.
- The Middle School Dance is on Friday, May 19 at 7pm.
- Thank you to the families that hosted the Cinco De Mayo Celebration for the Teacher Appreciation Lunch.

III. Financial Report (Mr. Gary Fedorochko)

- The April Financials were discussed. Currently, there is approximately \$65,000 in net equity.
- The following expenses are anticipated in the next month: \$4,000 for annual teacher PTO bonus (already given, but not in April budget report); and \$3,800 for end of year parties.
- Mr. Fedorochko encouraged the Room Parents to use the money budgeted for the end of the year parties.
- Mr. Fedorochko stated that the PTO Board ensured that sufficient operating capital, between \$15,000-\$20,000 would be available for next year's board. He explained that the PTO Board tabled a vote on tables to complement the Lab Learner program so that next year's Board would have sufficient funds.
- Summer Projects for this summer will cost \$29,000 for outdoor enhancements.

*Discussion from the PTO General Membership*

- Mrs. Halili, Arts in the Evening (AITE) chair, opened discussion on the AITE budget line item. Specifically, she cited that the \$300 reduction in budget was justified by the PTO Board because of flowers and gifts; excessive cost of programs; and declining enrollment. Mrs. Halili stated that the money was used to decorate the stage and for the art displays that showcase all children's art, not just those in the performance side of the AITE event.
- Mrs. Fedorochko explained that she was a member of the Finance Committee that put together the 2017-2018 Budget. Mr. Kelleher spent nearly \$300 on gift cards and flowers; and the remaining expenses were \$423 for bulletin boards. A total of 48 children performed. She indicated that the school use to have an art show, which was paid for by the school, but stated that the PTO can cover costs that apply to the entire student population, such as the bulletin boards to display the school's work. Mrs. Fedorochko explained that the PTO should not support individual clubs, and should only consider funding activities which a majority of the school students participate in. She added that the PTO does not contribute to the Band or Drama club - parents (of participating students) contribute to the Drama Club for both the Christmas pageant (\$20) and Shakespeare (\$20) , and other clubs. It was suggested that AITE could easily support the additional \$300 by simply charging a fee for each participating student like the drama program.

- Mrs. Dalmut ended the discussion by deciding that the school would cover the additional \$300 for the event so that we can showcase the talent of our students.
- A parent commented on the actual numbers reported on the April Financials indicating a \$5,000 red position whereas the budget states \$22,000 in the black. The parent continued to state that the \$29,000 summer playground enhancement project is an unbudgeted deduction. Mr. Fedorochko explained that the unrestricted funds, earned from last year's Auction, covered these expenses and what was earned from this year's Black Saturday sale, cover the \$29,000 project.
- Mr. Fedorochko explained that the PTO does not provide monies to the drama program, but serves as a pass through (bank) such that the drama line item on the budget report are not PTO income. The PTO assists by collecting the monies as the faculty cannot accept payments from parents. A parent suggested that this fact be indicated or labeled as a pass through line item for transparency. Mr. Fedorochko took the suggestion and stated that he will pass along the feedback to the Parish Office for updating the line item.

*-Motion made and passed to approve the 2017-2018 budget.*

#### IV. Ways and Means Report (Mrs. Mary Fedorochko)

-Mrs. Fedorochko presented diagrams and pictures detailing the \$40,000 project for swing sets, replacement of the gazebo with a shade structure, trim, replacement of folding chairs, and chalkboard skins. Mrs. Fedorochko explained that three years ago, gazebos, shade, and swing sets were discussed as part of the original playground project. The PTO Board decided that swing sets, a new gazebo, and maintenance of the existing trim would be a beneficial project for the school community. The PTO obtained approval for the swing sets, trim, fun tunnel, and gazebo structure.

- Specifically, the existing gazebo on the playground is 17-18 years old. The gazebo will be replaced with an 8x8 structure, that meets shade requirements, with 3 benches in red to match the current playground. The trim will be black. The Boy Scouts volunteered to take the gazebo down.
- Swing sets, providing the older kids in grades 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>, a portion of the playground, are very beneficial. The swings teach sensory skills and sharing. In addition, the playground is a good recruitment tool to attract students and sets St. Bernadette apart from other schools in the Diocese.
- Fun tunnel, placed near the shade structure, will be enjoyed by the younger grades.
- Additional mulch needs to be purchased and the PTO plans to buy the mulch at once for a quantity buy, for a total of 190 yards.
- In addition to the playground enhancements, Mrs. Fedorochko explained that 250 folding chairs will be replaced. The new chairs support 480 pounds. Also, existing chalkboards in the classrooms will be replaced with dry erase skins.

#### *Discussion from the PTO General Membership*

- A parent asked if the PTO planned to use rubber mulch. Mrs. Fedorochko explained that the mulch consists of a man made material, lasts a whole year, retains its color, and allergen friendly.
- A parent recalled survey results from 2 years ago that expressed interest in leveling the field and asked if the current playground enhancements would interfere with leveling the

field. Mrs. Fedorochko stated that the swing sets will be 12-14 feet away from where a track could potentially be placed.

#### V. President's Report (Mr. Gary Fedorochko)

-Mr. Fedorochko presented the slate of nominees for 2017-2018 board positions: President-Jackson Toof; Vice President-Kathy Mueller; Secretary-Jason Ouimet; Treasurer-Thai Nguyen; Ways and Means-Jackie Evans (*note: during the meeting, Ms. Evans was nominated and accepted the nomination. A separate vote was motioned and approved*); K-2 grade rep-Frances Moore; 3-5 grade rep-Vanessa Spendley; 6-8 grade rep-Jennifer Senzano; Cultural Arts Coordinator-Gina Soriano; and Volunteer Coordinator-Lorena Holliday.

-Mr. Fedorochko recognized and thanked the room parents; faculty that donated parties and supported the PTO; and the 2016-2017 Board members.

*-Motion was made and vote passed to approve the 2017-2018 Board.*

#### VI. Principal's Report (Mrs. Barbara Dalmut)

-Mrs. Dalmut thanked the PTO for the annual teacher gifts. She thanked everyone involved in Spirit Week, Teacher Appreciation Week, Colonial Day, and the Corey the Dribbler event.

-Mrs. Dalmut stated that the AITE celebration of children's talent is remarkable and special for the school. She also complimented Mrs. Candalor and the broad impact she makes with the children with the Shakespeare plays. Just recently, a professional critic complemented St. Bernadette on its visually excellent production of Taming of the Shrew.

-Mrs. Dalmut emphasized that enrollment is not declining. In fact, currently, there are 377 students enrolled at the school; 372 are registered for next year, and every day there are school tours. Mrs. Dalmut and Mrs. Johns have set the goal of 425 students for enrollment for next year. Mrs. Dalmut stressed that St. Bernadette does not have an enrollment problem, but a confidence problem. She asked parents to share with others what a great place St. Bernadette school is, and do not be humble when talking about enrollment. She believes St. Bernadette is a great school!

-When addressing staffing for next year, Mrs. Dalmut stated that there will be turnover. She said God always provides and great teachers are coming in so the school will thrive. She stated that a lot is going on behind the scenes and she will announce the staffing changes when possible. Mrs. Dalmut stated that her goal is to have teachers at St. Bernadette who are qualified in the teaching field; strong in their faith; and willing to work as a cohesive team.

-Carpool is changing thanks to suggestions from Mrs. Peckl and Mrs. Carluccio. Starting soon, the students will no longer go from classrooms to gym. Instead, parents will send numbers electronically and students will dismiss from their classrooms, cutting out at least 15 minutes of wait time. Mrs. Dalmut stated that the office will re-issue the numbers for those that have forgotten theirs and she is working the IT side for implementation of a smooth process. Canopy pick-up will still take place but parents need to sign out their children by 3pm. Mrs. Dalmut asked that parents have a conversation with their children about safety, and only entering cars they know.

-Mrs. Dalmut will start a morning sign-up for students taking part in after school activities.

-First Communion is Saturday, May 20 at 5:30pm. Mrs. Roser is hoping to be there, please pray for her recovery. Ms. McCook and Mrs. Peckl are practicing with the kids.

VII. Closing Prayer (Gary Fedorochko)  
*Meeting ended at 8:05pm.*