

St. Bernadette PTO General Membership Meeting – January 18, 2017

I. Opening Prayer

II. Financial Report – Treasurer, Mrs. Christine DeLorenzo

- The December financials were discussed.
- The Finance Committee will start preparing the 2018 budget in February and present it to the general membership at the March general membership meeting.

III. Grade Representatives Report – Mrs. Meghan Smith

- The “Superbowl Shuffle” Family Dance is on February 3 from 6:30-8:30pm. The cost is \$6/person, or \$15 for a family of 3 or more. Attendees may dress in their team wear.
- Please bring socks for donations to ECHO.

IV. Ways and Means Report – Mrs. Mary Fedorochko

- The December Super Saturday Sale rose over \$8,000 for the school. Thank you to all who participated.
- At the Superbowl Shuffle Family Dance, there will be a St. Bernadette Plinko game. Children can play for \$1. In addition, there will be other items for silent auction to include class pizza parties and baskets.
- The proceeds from the Super Saturday Sale and the Superbowl Shuffle Dance will go towards outdoor enhancements to include gazebos and other shade requirements.

V. Pastor’s Report – Father Don Rooney

- The principal search is underway. There were 9 to 10 applicants for the principal position. In the next few weeks, applicants will be interviewed. Father Don hopes to have the new principal in-place before the end of the school year, for a smooth transition.
- The school cleaning service has improved; however, there is room for improvement. Father Don is working with the company on the areas that need attention.
- Father Don provided an update on his outdoor cleanup project. The undergrowth, vines, and dead trees were removed on the outside of the school. The creek below the middle school was covered by woods and now the ground has extended 20-30 feet. Approximately \$40,000 was spent by the parish on the project. Another \$17,000 will be spent to grade the landscape, level the ground, plant “wild meadow” grass, and include drainage for the playground.
- The preschool expansion will be delayed until next fall due to permits. Father Don is working with the Diocesan lawyer and planning commission. Father Don sees adding another preschool class as a way to increase registration, and build the school’s number for future enrollment.
- The Parish Finance Council is comprised of many in the parish and school community. Father Don believes that the church has an obligation to subsidize some of the tuition. Specifically, Father Don has determined that the parish will provide a \$150,000 tuition subsidy to the school which works out to about \$400 per student. The tuition subsidy will be available to everyone. Father Don stated that if families can afford to pay the \$400, please consider not taking the subsidy so that a family who needs the subsidy more may get a double subsidy, or \$800 toward tuition.
- Tuition for the 2017-2018 school year will not increase.

-Father Don discussed other planned projects. An enclosure for the dumpsters, along with a wall for the soil and erosion by the dumpsters, is planned. In addition, Father Don will add a street sign for the church and school.

-This summer, Father Don will renovate the school bathrooms.

-Father Don discussed larger capital projects. He plans to expand the front offices, raise the ceiling in the cafeteria, work on the kitchen, and add a parish hall to the second floor of the middle school wing.

-Father Don stressed that the projects will be done over the summer, to minimize impact on the school. He explained that the larger capital projects would occur over time and would be planned to minimize disruption on the school.

-In addition, Father Don fielded questions regarding CYO practice times, enrollment issues, and potential for a traffic light. Specifically:

- For CYO practice times, Father Don said that the reason for the more limited time is the 3rd graders are now using the gym and there are events on Sundays that require the use of the gym.
- Regarding enrollment issues, Father Don explained that he feels the preschool will help the school with sustaining enrollment because more students will feed into the school.
- According to coordination that Father Don has done with Fairfax County, a traffic light on Old Keene Mill is not an option.

VI. President's Report – Mr. Gary Fedorochko

-Mr. Fedorochko thanked the families who made efforts to donate to the PTO. The PTO is willing to accept donations toward the outdoor enhancement project. If you would like to make a donation, please send it through kid mail with "PTO" labeled on the envelope.

-Dr. Kenneth Hrechka, a local orthodontist, is offering any St. Bernadette family \$500 toward orthodontic care. Please see attached letter.

-Nominations of dues paying members for next year's Board will be accepted at the March general membership meeting.

-When Mrs. Roser returns to school in February from her medical leave of absence, there will be a welcome basket for her on behalf of the PTO.

VII. Principal's Report – Mrs. Beth Monroe

-Mrs. Roser appreciates the prayers and cards. Mrs. Monroe asked for continued prayers for Mrs. Roser's healing. Also, thanks to Mrs. Paquette and Mrs. Green for substituting for Mrs. Roser.

-Sibling registration was held on January 18. There will be two open houses for Catholic School's week. If you would like to volunteer to be a tour guide, please notify Mrs. Johns.

-Re-registration paperwork, for current students, will be distributed in early February.

-On Friday, February 3, from 9:15-10:15am, there will be a Family Open House. The Open House is an opportunity for you to join your child in the classroom. Light refreshments will be served in the cafeteria.

VIII. Closing Prayer