

Aquinas PTO November 2020 Meeting Minutes

Call to order: Sr. Mary Sheila November 12, 2020 at 7:04. Meeting held virtually via Zoom.

Attendance: Sr. Mary Sheila, Mrs. Howser, Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin, Mrs. Willis, Mr. & Mrs. Jefferson, Mr. & Mrs. Furgiuele, Mr. & Mrs. Minne, Mr. D'sa, Mrs. Rao, Mrs. Fratantonio, Mr. & Mrs. Quinlan, Mrs. Pietak, Mrs. Clifford

Chair Reports:

- Chair Reports
 - Core Chair – Katie and Rich Benjamin
 - Approval of October meeting minutes: Final draft of meeting minutes was provided to the Core PTO prior to the meeting for review. Minutes approved. Motion to approve made by Mrs. Benjamin and second the motion by Mr. & Mrs. Jefferson.
 - Suggestion was made to publish member list and emails on the school website. Meeting dates and meeting minutes should also be published. In the future, these meeting could potentially be held in the gym. Due to the current pandemic, we will continue with Zoom. Message will be placed in The Connection. Then the link to be added to the PTO page on the school website on the day of meeting.
 - The meeting minutes will be archived on the Aquinas website. Parents will be able to access if they log in to the PTO page. Password protected.
 - Reminder to have items for the agenda by Tuesday before the meeting.
 - Face masks for fundraiser and/or teachers gifts: Suggestion to make face masks as teacher's gifts. Decision is to use funding from personalized face mask to help further fund Christmas gifts/lunch for the teachers. Sr. Mary Sheila suggestion is to come up with cost and numbers for heat press and supplies. Then vote over email.
 - Christmas decorations/ideas: Approval given by Sr. Mary Sheila to decorate the school foyer with Advent Trees. Items located in PTO shed. Dates of decorations to be determined.
 - Mr. Benjamin requesting email of any Knights of Columbus to potentially ask for help with rosary campaign.
 - Development – Pam Howser and Sister Mary Sheila
 - Race for Education updates: We are doing well. Financial goal was set at \$15,000. Site open for donations until 11/20. As of today, we are at close to 600 for prayer pledges. Tomorrow is race day. The Eckmans agreed to DJ. Two tracks will be utilized so that two classes can run at a time. Each class will run for 30 minutes. Since parents can't come on site due to COVID restrictions, suggestions to post videos and/or photos on FB. Mrs. Howser stated she was planning on doing that.

- Treasurer – Raquel and Todd Jefferson
 - There is no change to the budget to report at this time.
 - Gigi to ask Mrs. Fitzgerald for a copy of the budget to send out with agenda and minutes for PTO core review.
 - Sr. Mary Sheila would like to review this year’s budget since things are much different than previous year. The suggestion is for the Jeffersons to report what funds are available.
 - Used uniform brings funds in as well as spirit wear. Initial purchase of spirit wear lead to us being nicely stocked for the year. Everything sold at this point is a profit.
 - PTO also receives funds from the registration fees: \$2870
 - The School Auction is moving from PTO to School Development.
 - A meeting needs to be scheduled with Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Howser, Mrs. Jefferson, Mrs. Benjamin and Sr. Mary Sheila to discuss budget and expenses. Mrs. Willis to schedule the meeting.

- Aquinas Community Events Co-Chairs – Casey and Giancarlo Furgiuele/Emily and Kevin Minne
 - Survey going out in the next two Connections to determine Aquinas families interested in fundraising events and activities.
 - Art to Remember update: Orders are coming in. Pam to look at the amount of orders to date. School gets back 15%. Deadline for orders ended last week. Another fundraiser will be held in the spring. Pam will reach out to Miss Woltornist to start conversation about projects. Will also ask her to set up kits for at home learners to pick up and do at home.
 - Service project update: Going well. Wrapping paper to be dropped off at school. Mrs. Rusnak put together information. Mrs. Howser made webpage for it. Emails to go out on Monday. Information will also be added to The Connection on Tuesday. Sign-up nicely lists the things the family asked for. Another link for more details about families was provided. Delivery date is set for December 18th.

- Outreach Events Chair – Charlotte and Mario D’sa
 - Displays will be up at the parishes this weekend. Identify people to help put them up and/or pull down this weekend.
 - November open house is smaller. Mrs. Howser to work with Mr. D’sa to do more for January open house.

- School Spirit and Aquinas Apparel Chair – Carolyn and Joe Quinlan
 - White House Christmas ornaments update: Information was placed in The Connection this week.
 - Spirit Wear update: steady sales. Suggestion to place spirit wear inventory online. Spreadsheet so people can see what’s available. Perhaps use some of the students wearing spirit wear so we have examples on website.
 - No updates on Skate Social at this time.

- Suggestion to perhaps make the Skate Social a summer social.
- Spiritual Life Chair– Stephanie and Luigi Rao
 - Ideas for Advent: How to help families live this better? For students, suggestion to wear the color of the candle for the week on each Monday of advent if you attend mass.
 - Trivia question for the families during advent. Maybe on FB?
 - Share links in The Connection to Advent resource for families to use.
 - Praying as a family series DVD: Suggestion to have it rotate through Aquinas homes. Maybe have a watch party. Ask sisters if they can put them online. Raos to ask for permission due to copyrights.
 - Local pilgrimage. Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. Our Lady of Guadalupe is on a Saturday. Rosary walk mysteries together in the garden at the Basilica. Suggest a specific time for families to come. Wear spirit wear? Can do confession after or vigil mass. Raos to investigate.
 - Sr. Mary Sheila would like to formally thank the Raos for the burst of energy and tremendous job they are doing with this important chair and for keeping the families connected to their faith.
- Faculty & Staff Support Chair – Maria and Mario Fratantonio
 - Room parent list update: All are in place. Looking for more ideas on how room parents can help teachers.
 - Script Gift card program: In holding pattern due to account issues. Office can't process them. We need volunteer to run the program. Shipping cost is really high on cards. Escript is online. Should we continue the program?
 - Request for teachers wish list. Mrs. Fratantonio will work to update.
 - Amazon smile: Are we bringing anything in for this. Suggestion to advertise it again in The Connection or FB.
- Faculty Representative – Mrs. Pietak
 - Comments: Thank you for Tuesday Treats. All little gestures are appreciated. The staff appreciated the thoughtful information gained by the questionnaires about holiday travel. Thank you for putting the time and effort into that. Staff wants the safest environment for the kids.
 - Teachers gifts: Teachers understand budget is tight. We're all in this together. Anything is appreciated. Being uplifted in prayers is huge.

Closing remarks:

- Sr. Mary Sheila would like to engage the parishes with involvement since we are a regional school between the three parishes; not a school attached to one parish. Think of ideas/ways that we can do this before next meeting.
- Good news announcement: Shout out to Cliffords and Benjamins because Aquinas was gifted a grant from Plasma Air to receive 100% of the funds needed for the system. The grant amount of approximately \$25,000 was approved.

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Next meeting: Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 7pm.

Closing prayer by Sister Mary Sheila

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm