

Aquinas PTO October 2020 Meeting Minutes

Call to order: By Sr. Mary Sheila October 8, 2020 at 7:02pm. 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, Mr. & Mrs. Rao, Mrs. Pietak, Mrs. Clifford, Mrs. Rusnak and Mrs. Quinlan

Chair Reports:

- Chair Reports
 - Core Chair – Katie and Rich Benjamin
 - Welcome and Introductions
 - Creation of survey for interest and ideas for in-person and at home learning students.
 - Gauge the level of comfort for various activities
 - Think outside of the box and include ideas for both in-person and home learners.
 - PTO to think of ideas/questions of what should go on questionnaire. Information should be sent to Mrs. Furgiuele/Minne by Wednesday, 10/14. Questionnaire will then be forwarded to Sr. for her review by Thursday.
 - Secretary and Communication Chair – Gigi and Brandan Willis
 - Items for the agenda by Tuesday before meeting
 - Connection info by prior Friday no later than noon
 - Development – Pam Howser and Sister Mary Sheila
 - Brainstorming fun Halloween activities: Census of PTO is that most families will be allowing some form of trick-or-treating
 - Family pumpkin carving contest: Post photos on school website that are judged by teachers or faculty with different prizes (i.e. most creative, most Dominican, etc.)
 - Painting rocks to tie in with All Saints Day
 - Have children dress up in Halloween costumes or saint costume and then make video montage
 - Zoom Monster Mash Dance contest. Students to dress in costume and dance to Monster Mash. Will not take longer than 15 minutes. Can be done prior to trick-or-treating. Around 5pm. Will post info in Connection.
 - Treasurer – Raquel and Todd Jefferson
 - Budget: Sr. will review the current number and if needed a vote will be taken at next meeting.
 - Donations are down this year due to the pandemic. Families/sponsors just don't have the expendable money or funds right now.

- The budget will look a little different this year because of COVID. There won't be as many expenses.
- For this school year, we need to just make sure we have money before we spend it
- Plan to expand school auction/gala. Should this be moved into school development budget?
- Race for Education:
 - Last year went to updating 9 out of 30 interactive boards
 - Will still be held on Nov. 13
 - Funds raised this year will go to another set of interactive boards. Each board is approximately \$3, 600.
 - Goals: Last year goal was met \$26,528. What should the goal be this year? \$15,000 due to donations being down due to pandemic.
 - Prizes/incentives for meeting goals.
- Seek single sponsor this year for t-shirts. Use same teach for both the race and youth rally. Could be a potential \$3000 cost savings
- Ideas for fundraising
 - Drive in movie night: 25-30 cars. What are the costs to put this together? Rent projector. Sell food/drinks. Where would we do it? Aquinas parking lot vs. JP. More space at Aquinas. Should there be two different movies for different groups for elementary and middle school? Pick a movie that works for all ages. Important that everyone understands that they need to stay in their cars and can't socialize between cars. What would be the suggested donation. We need the permission of the pastor. (Table this idea for discussion for future meeting)
- Aquinas Community Events Co-Chairs – Casey and Giancarlo Furgiuele/Emily and Kevin Minne
 - Art to Remember:
 - Should this be moved to the fall/winter semester since it was not done last spring?
 - If moved to fall, it can become a Christmas present.
 - Ask Miss Wolternist if possible and if she can find something that at-home-learners can participate in.
 - Parent can submit child's art on their own via company website. Can upload form from their website.
 - Question of timelines and if we have enough time to turn it around before the holidays.
 - Santa Shop replacement idea: Presented by Mrs. Rusnak
 - Service project instead of Santa Shop this year due to COVID restrictions.
 - Gifts for families at St. Margaret of Cortona. Transitional housing for single moms with children. Located near school. Currently hosting 9 families (21 children 3mo-16). 3 families already adopted. Aquinas to adopt remaining 6 families.
 - Lists completed by families within the week. Spread the lists of these families over the different grades.

- Lists distributed to the classes by first week of Nov. Gifts returned by first week of Dec. Gifts should be returned wrapped. Room parents gather these gifts. Deliver by Dec. 7.
- Sr. suggests to push the date back due to Thanksgiving collection. Move collection date to after 2nd week of Dec.
- Spirit nights
 - None are schedule at this time.
 - Gauge interest in survey.
 - Ideas for virtual spirit nights.
- Outreach Events Chair – Charlotte and Mario D’sa
 - Outreach to parishes and staffing parish booths
 - A big poster board display needs to be made
 - Virtual open house will be held in November
- School Spirit and Aquinas Apparel Chair – Carolyn and Joe Quinlan
 - Spirit wear sales: T-shirt sales are slow.
 - White House Christmas Ornaments:
 - Last year funds went to faculty Christmas party.
 - This year funds should be used for the teachers again. Mrs. Pietak to ask faculty for ideas of what to do in lieu of Christmas party.
 - Cost for ornaments will remain the same as last year.
 - Skate Social: Currently can’t book yet because of skate rentals. Hoping to open in March for large groups. Will save the date once the books open up again.
- Spiritual Life Chair– Stephanie and Luigi Rao
 - Ideas for Spiritual growth:
 - Prayer Crusaders: Highlight those that know lots about religion. Program break up amongst the grades. Possibly have t-shirt, certificate, card, combat rosary. Celebration of knowledge. Focuses on service participation as well as knowledge of Catholic faith. Fosters intellectual and spiritual. Cliffords to help. Sr. suggests to be care of how to measure someone spiritually.
 - Family field trips. Encourage families to do pilgrimages, scavenger hunt or bingo.
 - First Fridays and First Saturdays: may teach families of something new
 - Election novena (pray for leaders and country)
 - Pick up prayers (pray while in the parking lot). Via google meet.
 - Start new ideas sometime after Christmas because decade rosary campaign will have ended by then.
- Faculty & Staff Support Chair – Maria and Mario Fratantonio
 - Room parent enrollment update: all classes have volunteers with the exception of 1 class
 - Ms. Pietak to ask teachers for ideas on how room parents can help teachers.

- Should we move First Tuesday Treats to Wednesday since staff is there after the half day working late into the afternoon.
- Faculty Representative – Mrs. Pietak
 - Comments: Thanks parents for all of their hard work getting the kids prepared for return to school and for working with faculty. Grateful to be back. Noticed that the kids are thrilled to be there and have adjusted well. Doing well with masks and social distancing. The teachers are re-working lessons to help students adjust to classrooms while still academically moving forward. Appreciate the support. Thank you for the half day Wednesdays.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 7pm

Closing prayer by Sister Mary Sheila

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm