

SS Peter and Paul Home and School

Meeting Minutes

September 7, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Lauren Cowherd and the attendees came together in prayer.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Dana Rogge presented the minutes from the April 6, 2021 meeting. Janell Drummond moved to approve the meeting minutes and Lori Rowlett seconded. Secretary's report approved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Suzann Richerson presented the Treasurer's report. Actual financials were shared by paper copy at the meeting. There is currently a balance of \$176,296.07 in our Boone County Bank checking account. Deposits have been made for Coke bottle caps totaling \$44.96 and \$330 for miscellaneous fundraisers. Expenses since the last meeting included parish support, new family night (ice cream/signs for new families). Anecita Alvizo moved to approve the treasurer's report and Janell Drummond seconded. Treasurer's report approved.

Principal's Report:

Mr. Lammers provided information on an upcoming event for parents on Oct. 26. There will be presentations from Burrell Counseling presenting two educational sessions for parents to choose from – Dangers of Social Media Use for Adolescents and Kids Mental Health 101. Burrell staff will also be doing some work in the classroom on mental health topics. Mr. Lammers stated the data on social media use for adolescents, there's a lot of negative behaviors connected to social media use and encourage parents with children with social media to please monitor it closely. Teachers have also been working on the mental health aspect in students-recognizing trauma, how to cope, etc. More information will be coming out on the Oct. 26 event and it will be provided to the school at no cost.

Mr. Lammers thanked Home and School for the support-both financially and with manpower.

Matt Kueny, our Edward Jones representative, was unable to attend, therefore President Lauren Cowherd presented information on the organization's financials related to our Edward Jones account. As reported during the Treasurer's report, there's currently over \$176,000 in our checking account and only a little over \$14,000 with Edward Jones.

The Edward Jones account was started in 2015 per a majority vote to invest some of the Associations' surplus funds. The initial investment was \$10,000 and it's grown by over \$4,000 since inception.

Any new funds can be withdrawn after one year without penalty. If an emergency, we can pull any new funds out before that one year mark with a 1% penalty.

Our average rate of return on our investment account has been 6.79%. Our account is an income builder fund that is a combination of stocks and bonds. There's a guaranteed rate of return on the bonds 2.87%.

Lauren asked those in attendance if we should consider moving some funds out of our Boone County checking account into our Edward Jones account. Our current budget for planned expenses are around \$82,000, so there's excess that could be moved over if the association chooses to.

Lori Rowlett explained that the reason the investment account was created was there was excess money that wasn't earning interest. Utilizing an investment account would allow the Association to use the distribution/earnings on the account as a possible church payment, or teacher fund payments, etc., off of the distribution.

Janell Drummond asked how much would be a recommended amount to invest. Lauren Cowherd stated that once we invest over \$100,000, there's a fee for transitioning the account over to a new type of investment account.

Ancita Alvizo recommended getting options from Matt to present back to the group. Janell Drummond agreed and suggested those options be shared and put forth for a vote of the members either at the next meeting or via electronic vote.

Old Business

Janell Drummond reported that there are still some cookbooks left. They plan on trying to sell remaining inventory at the Turkey Dinner in Nov. Additionally, copies of the cookbook can be purchased at Gordon Jewelers, Headlines, Boonville Abstract and Title Company, as well as the school office.

Anecita Alvizo reported that the April 2021 Service Project was cancelled last year due to weather.

Lauren Cowherd reported that this was the first year for Home and School to host New Family Night. There was a little over \$200 spent this year to purchase new signs and to pay for the ice cream social. Families who received yard signs are asked to return them to the school office so they can be reused in the future.

It was reported that Back to School Night was a success. Shelly Schuster commented that the 8th grade class did a great job making it a fun atmosphere. Suzann Richerson let the group know that the 8th grade class approached Home and School for funds to purchase items for Back to School night and we provided them with their requested funds.

The Long-Range Planning Committee had no updates to report.

New Business

Celeste Bowman asked if there were any funds available for the art program. Suzann Richerson reported there's a little over \$5,000 allocated for Fine Art Enrichment. Ms. Bowman indicated she's now in a position to begin making requests – ideas include new tables for the art room, etc.

Mr. Lammers requested that Art and Learning Support be included in the \$300/classroom allocated by Home and School each year. Janell Drummond moved to add \$600 in additional teacher support to the budget to include Art and Learning Support. Lori Rowlett seconded. Motion carried.

Lauren Cowherd then led a discussion on the way Home and School provides teacher support and if teachers would like to see changes in the process. Currently, Home and School writes a check for teacher funds to the church and teachers have to go through the church office to get reimbursed. Lauren presented the idea of having teachers complete a form indicating three stores they would like gift cards from (stores would be SCRIP participants). Then teachers would have the gift cards (3, \$100) in hand to make purchases and the church would get the benefit from the SCRIP purchases. There was a discussion that there are some stores and online vendors that teachers use where the gift cards wouldn't be an option. Another point was presented that maybe not all of the money should be gift cards – perhaps just a portion.

Lauren Cowherd thanked everyone who came and cleaned up the school grounds before school started. She mentioned that the rock playground originally had a wood border to contain the rocks, but the wood rotted and the border is no longer there. Lauren suggested using Home and School funds to add trim, replacing/adding pea gravel, etc. and possibly making it an outdoor educational center. She provided some estimates of costs. A composite wood border would cost around \$600, but should have a long lifespan. A brick/paver border would be around \$200-\$300, but teachers expressed concerns about kids getting scraped knees. Additionally, Ms. Bowman stated there's a large slate in storage that could be placed outside for an outdoor chalkboard. It was also stated that there's a rope missing on the upper playground equipment that we'd like to replace. Ms. Wassmann stated that the younger grades use the rock area a lot and would like to see it cleaned up and possibly upgraded with some digging toys, etc. Lori Rowlett moved to spend up to \$1,000 for upgrades. Janell Drummond seconded. Motion carried.

Friday, Oct. 1 is Grandparents Day. Julie Brooks will be chairing the event. A sign-up sheet for volunteers was passed around. All activities will be held at the school. Mr. Lammers stated at this time there are no concerns for this to be an in-person event, but he will give as much notice as possible if it can't be. A Google survey will go out to all families to RSVP to help with planning for food.

Suzann Richerson gave a report on the wrapping paper fundraiser. The fundraiser closes on Monday, Sept. 13. So far, there's been about \$4,400 in online sales, which equates to

approximately \$1400 in profit. Please turn in all forms and money on Monday. Teresa has extra forms in the office if needed. If you have questions, contact Suzann.

Janell Drummond reported that the spirit wear order has been submitted and hopes items will be delivered in roughly 3 weeks.

There was no update on Box Tops, however Lauren reminded the group to download the App so the school can get credit for those purchases.

Lauren Cowherd reported that 19 girls signed up for the Spirit Squad. Practices start on 9/8 and occur each Wednesday until their performance between volleyball games on 9/24. Each attendee will receive a t-shirt for their performance and snacks during practices.

Lauren then asked if there was any interest in Home and School hosting a 5K, not necessarily as a fundraiser, but a fun activity. Lori Rowlett mentioned finding a time is hard and that fall does seem to be better timing. It was decided to table discussion until the spring and look for a fall date then.

Shelly Schuster also mentioned that the 5th Grade class may be doing a trivia night for fun. Looking at December timeframe. More information to come.

Anecita Alvizo presented some community and spiritual project proposals. For October, Anecita recommended having the 6th, 7th and 8th grade students to lead a live streaming of the Holy Rosary, possibly on Fridays, during the month of October. Other ideas presented included: Catholic Outreach Box of Joy, which would start at the end of October. The 8th grade would help with each class being assigned various items to bring. Community Service Day in April 2022 where the group can clean up around the school and church grounds. Also, volunteering for Neighbors Helping Neighbors/Food Bank at least 3 or 4 times throughout the school year on a Thursday night distribution from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Proposed timing – 7th grade – September; 8th grade – November; 6th grade – May.

Another possible idea was delivering donuts or homemade cookies to the police and/or fire departments during special recognition weeks to express gratitude for their service to our community. These observances could include – National Law Enforcement Day – Jan. 9; National Firefighters Day – May 4; and National First Responders Day – Oct. 28

Lauren Cowherd recognized Father Mark Smith who joined the meeting. He shared his philosophy on how the parish has made a commitment to having a ministry with the school to create another generation of disciples. The school and the parish are not separate entities, rather the school is a mission of the parish. Parents are a key part of this mission and one of the reasons that they want to see parents involved – it's a partnership.

The meeting concluded with a group prayer of the Glory Be.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Rogge

Secretary