



PTO MEETING MINUTES  
School PTO Monthly Meeting - Online  
Tuesday September 14, 2021 at 8:30 AM

Attendees (virtual): Kerrie Grover, Yue Zhang, Renata Konrad, Kellye O'Brien, Bryan Betlon, Katie Smith, Liz Drews, Meredith Mitchell, Zhiqiang Liu, Mark Sulham, Julie Jaster De Garcia, Christine Farley, Carrie Powers, Kate O'Malley, Taylor Coskren, Russ Morton, Andrea Belton, Marcell Bhangoo, Angela De Proposio, Mary Marie Barrett, Jennifer Zammit, Susan Copanos, Meg Donoghue, Bridget Arrow

Meeting was recorded

Executive Team was introduced

Kellye O'Brien	– President
Jill Murphey	– Vice President
Kerrie Grover	– Past President “Support Advisor”
Liz Drews	– Volunteer Coordinator
Yue Zhang	– Communications
Renata Konrad / Christine Farley	– Secretary

PTO UPDATE REPORT – Kellye O'Brien

- Warm welcome to all.
- Fewer activity restrictions this year regarding PTO activities - a number of activities are returning in various capacities
- Hoping to bring back *Morning Mingles* for parents to have a cup of coffee and get to know other parents.
- *Trunk or Treat* will happen this year.
- Volunteers are always needed!
- PTO Newsletter will be available this year - a consolidated way to distribute information to the community and sign-up links.
- Volunteer form will be sent out to asking preferences for volunteering at PTO events.
- Hot Lunch
  - Volunteers are needed, both for inside and outside lunch (change from last year in which parents were not allowed in the building). Mrs. Mahoney will send the sign up for lunch.

- Lunches are individually packaged.
- There will be a 'trial period' like last year.
- Mrs. Mahoney and Ms McDonald will be running hot lunch until someone is hired.
- Kellye noted questions from parents to bring to Mrs. Mahoney (e.g., are sides being included in the lunch)

#### TREASURER'S REPORT – Bryan Belton

- A brief overview of the role of treasurer was provided – namely the role is to manage fundraising to support community building. Every month the Treasurer provides an overview of financial activities for the month.
- The 2021/22 draft budget was introduced. Bryan asked for people to keep in mind any ideas for activities so that budget can be allocated early in the year.  
Revenues:
  - This year the income will be from two main areas: (1) Trees and Trimmings (goal to net \$25,000, this is the flagship fundraiser) and (2) Class Dues (roughly \$21,000).
  - Other sources of income: Spirit Wear (typically nets \$1,000) and Recycled Uniforms (typically nets \$1,000).
  - Estimating \$50,000 to disperse amongst PTO Activities
- Expenses:
  - Big Expense items are: (1) teacher gifts (budgeted \$15,000), and (2) Hospitality events.
- Bryan is asking for suggestions for the budget as during the October meeting budget will be finalized with a formal vote.

#### WELLESLEY WONDERFUL PARADE – Kerrie Grover

- Wellesley Wonderful Weekend will be October 2 and 3. The parade will have all Wellesley schools and is a great marketing tool for SJS. Kerrie will be sending out a sign up, kids love participating – the time commitment is 12:00-2:00, kids asked to wear SJS uniforms, spirit wear, of sports outfits. Parade is on Sunday, October 3.

#### TREES AND TRIMMINGS – Andrea Belton

- Trees and Trimmings is Saint John School's main annual fundraiser, and an incredibly festive, fun tradition. This event is a great way for families to be involved and the committee looking for new ideas and participation.
- Date: December 4<sup>th</sup>, 8:00-2:00
- Will keep it outside because of unvaccinated children
- Trying to come up with ideas of how to engage the community, but still be cognizant of social distancing requirements e.g. will have fire pits.
- Kelley Meraw will oversee refreshments.
- Wreaths and boxwoods will be available, but no customized. Mimi Littas and her team will have semi-custom decorative wreaths.
- Agya Garg is working on the website for inventory pre-sale and toy raffle.
- Order was placed in February for 150 trees - a smaller number compared to previous years in order to sell out. Note inventory is very low (given droughts, and tree planting)

- Logistics are still being worked out, and many volunteers may be needed.
- Likely will have Grade 6 helping out with unloading trees
- Babysitting on site may be a possibility.

#### HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE – Katie Smith, ML Ganley, (Kellye reporting)

- This year the Hospitality Committee helped out with the *New Family Orientation* and *Back to School Coffee*. Both events went well and was lovely to be able to gather in person.
- Hospitality is working to bring back the *Morning Mingle*, which was an opportunity to chat with other parents, sometimes there was a topic. Previous years this was typically before a mass, but made for a long morning. *Morning Mingles* will be the First Friday of every month and held outside for as long as possible.
- *Parent Social* – School Administration isn't quite comfortable with an indoor event this year, will revisit to check comfort. PTO looking for some creative ways to come together, e.g., food trucks.
  - Meeting attendees expressed a strong opinion not to include children as this is such an effective community building event.
  - Mary Marie Barrett agreed to help out.
- Room parent lists were finalized and connected with teachers. One role of the room parents is to organize a parent get-together.
- Engagement – Hospitality is looking to engage more families in volunteering and looking to break the committee into smaller subcommittees,
  1. Catholic Schools Week (CSW) - (two weeks which the committee needs help with National CSW and New England CSW)
  2. Teacher Appreciation Subcommittee – helping out with teacher gifts and National Teacher Appreciation Day and during CSW. It would make sense to engage the room parents in this.

#### ATHLETICS – Tom Cronin (Reported by Kellye)

- Golf
  - Grades 4-6 is well underway with 24 students, three times a week.
  - Spring 2022 – Intrasquad match and matches against other groups will be brought back in addition to golf practice and coaching.
  - Spring 2022 - Grades 1-3 will have a golf option at Kohr Golf in Natick.
- Basketball is coming back to Saint Johns!
  - An interest survey will be sent out for planning purposes.
  - Enrollment will happen in the next couple of weeks.
  - Five Teams: Grades 1-2 combined, Grade 3-4 Girls, Grade 3-4 Boys; Grade 5-6 Girls; Grade 5-6 Boys.
  - Grade 1-2 team play in the Mount Alvernia League, all other teams in the South Shore CYO League.
  - All coaches are parents.
  - Coaches needed for Girls 3-4 and Boys 3-4, and Grades 1-2.
  - Email: [basketball@SaintJohnSchool.net](mailto:basketball@SaintJohnSchool.net) if interested in coaching/questions
  - The season is before Thanksgiving to first week of March.

## FAITH ENRICHMENT and COMMUNITY SERVICE – Angela DeProspo

- First All School Liturgy held September 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Saint John's School will host Family Mass, co-hosted with Saint Paul's Collaborative. It will be the First Sunday of the Month. There are many opportunities for students to help (e.g., handing out Worship Aids) and brings visibility for the school.
- Looking for a way to incorporate School Reconciliation.

## Community Service

- Ms. MacDonald is heading up service this year, and hoping for opportunities for families to be involved.
- There is a general calendar for one project event per month, e.g., Saint Elizabeth Clothing Drive; food drive.
- Students are suggesting ideas. Last year classes were responsible for events, but it was difficult for teachers to coordinate. This year Grades 5 and 6 will be liaisons going into each classroom, and providing more information.
- First community event is coming up this Friday - a dress day down for Hurricane Ida.

## RECYCLED UNIFORMS – Jennifer Zammit

- Collection was held at the end of the summer with two sales netting \$1450.
- This year there is a permanent collection bin outside Ledyard Street entrance.
- Desperate bin for sizes 5-8 as Lands End horribly delayed
- Big donation of white socks, and boys 10-12 was received.
- Recycled Spirit Wear available as well.
- Parents can use the 'back pack system' for deliveries and payment, and can get in touch with Jennifer via email [jetracy2131@gmail.com](mailto:jetracy2131@gmail.com).

## TRUNK OR TREAT – Marie Carroll, Holly Hamel, Jenn McGonagle (Kellye reporting)

- Because restrictions have somewhat been lifted, opportunity for multiple classes jointly participate.
- Proposal is to have on-site, after lunch with interactive games and DJs (e.g. guess the weight of the pumpkin).
- New parents have volunteered.
- Questions were raised regarding if parents come to school on that day.
- Right now October 22 and 29 are the proposed dates.
- Idea to have the PK and PS classes in the morning.
- If interested in helping out, please reach out to PTO.
- 

## SPIRIT WEAR – Marie Carroll, Sarah Williams (Kellye reporting)

- \$1600 in Sales since the beginning of the school year. Currently selling off remaining inventory at very low prices. Most of the inventory is in smaller sizes.
- Putting in order for late October - Marie and Sarah are looking for suggestions for items. Inventory and supply chains are a challenge the moment.
- Contemplating another belt order – looking to gauge interest
- Every Wednesday is Spirit Day

NEW BUSINESS

OPEN DISCUSSION

Meeting adjourned: 10:04 AM

Minutes taken by: Renata Konrad