

January 30, 2018 - Home and School Association Meeting Minutes

Call to order: Becky Beissel called the meeting to order and Father Eric said the prayer.

Guest Speakers: Superintendent Barry Cain spoke regarding the upcoming Operation Referendum for the Ellsworth School District on April 3rd 2018. For more information please visit www.ellsworth.k12.wi.us Nancy Brooks, food service director, spoke about her role and all she has been learning and implementing for our children this year. St. Francis is part of the DPI, a USDA National school lunch and breakfast program. Being part of this program St. Francis receives partial reimbursement for our full paid meals and full reimbursement for those on the Free/reduced lunch program.

Introductions: Becky Beissel, Katie Feuerhelm, Thia Rewolinski, and Angie McHardy were officers present. Jennifer VanWatermeulen was absent. Angie McHardy took notes for Jennifer. Mr. Pedavoli and Mrs. Penton were the teachers present.

Meeting Minutes: Angie McHardy read the minutes from the November 30 meeting. There was a correction in the previous minutes regarding verbiage. Please note: On the grant information given in November: The grant was **received** from an anonymous donor **specifically for tuition assistance..** Minutes were then approved by Cheryl Kaufer.

Treasurer's report: Thia spoke about the deposits and expenses since the November meeting. H&S account started with a balance of \$2000.00. Expenses: \$1957.00. Deposits: Schwans \$243.04, Carnival \$9385.00. Total income: \$9628.04. Account balance: \$11,628.04 before expenses. Balance after expenses of \$9670.98. Motion was made to transfer \$7670.98 to school. Shari Turvaville motioned, Cheryl Kaufer seconded the motion.

Old Business

Easter Seals: Becky spoke on behalf of Anne Pechacek. In the past St. Francis families have donated items to for Easter seals. Last year they were not taking items but are now accepting items again. We will need volunteers to load the trucks. St. Francis has made approximately \$1200-\$1500 by doing this. This happens in June. Anne will be in contact with the Easter Seals.

Schwan's: Becky spoke on behalf of Anne P. 45 days left in the campaign. We've currently made \$260.

Carnival: Anne Matzek said the raffles are going well. Still many tickets out to families. If any family has misplaced their tickets we have a way to work with that so just let the office know. We are hoping to raise \$25,000 with the carnival this year. Donations for prizes/raffles are coming in. If anyone knows of a gas station/grocery store that would be willing to donate the pop for this event, please let Anne Matzek know.

Games: Holly Johnson said they are working at getting all the games ready.

Decorating: Katie Feuerhelm and Angie McHardy said the teachers have their projects and that the decorating is on its way. Puhrmann family is donating hay bails.

Worker committee: We could use more workers. If anyone has any family members/neighbors willing to work a shift that would be wonderful. Middle school age students can work with an adult and high school students can work the shift alone.

Friends of St. Francis: Still gathering more names/addresses of alumni. Focusing on the purpose of this fundraiser and what people would like to see, example: What's going on in our school, building, and events. Tentatively looking at getting this newsletter out in March/April.

Principals Report: Mr. Buckel spoke on the 529 plan. This plan allows families to use their private school tuition as a tax deduction. Catholics schools week is underway. Mr. Buckel thanked all the teachers, staff, and parent volunteers for all their help and what a wonderful job they all do. Registrations are coming in. Some new families are coming to see what all we have to offer. The before school care program is being used and successful. The Eau Claire Catholic School System has been invited to speak at our April meeting regarding fundraising and what works for them. New bussing schedule has been going magnificently. He thanked the Ellsworth school district for giving St. Francis School desks and chairs from Hillcrest/Prairie View. 3rd-5th grade received these desks.

A discussion arose about how we can get more families to join and to get our “best kept secret” out! Show how the tuition we pay is in comparison to the amount of cost of each student. Ways to do this? Newsletter, community rec, Pierce County Herald? Home and school has a advisory committee for marketing, maybe have those individual brainstorm some ideas. Also spoke on parent mentors for families. Pass down the knowledge from year to year on what to expect. Melissa Gutting said she would put something in motion. More to come on this.

Classroom News: Mr. Pedavoli spoke about his 5th grade class. Playing fraction games, learning body systems in science, reading Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and he shared a story that one student brought chocolate in from Knoke’s chocolates, which was exciting because they hid golden tickets in their chocolate bars. Also reading the book of Matthew and tying in the geography of Israel. 5th grade is excited about their upcoming puppet show, growing in love talk, and Valleyfair trip.

Mrs.Penton said 5th grade is practicing for their folktale-Jack in the Beanstalk which they will perform later in February. 4th graders have received their recorders. 3rd grade are in their orchestra unit and making a composition that they will perform. St. Francis received a grant for music equipment. They used it for a xylophone, tymphani, and tempoblocks. 2nd grade is playing music games and learning me,so,la. 1st grade is learning to read from a staff, and kindergarten is learning slow/fast beat.

New Business

National Day of Giving: Becky spoke about National Catholic Giving (NCEA). It is an online program for giving. Similar to the Day of giving. Taking place January 30-31.

Building the Foundation for Fundraising Success: Becky attended a fundraising workshop. A national fundraising consultant spoke on different ways to maximized fundraisers and get most profits. She’ll be attending a “part 2” for this in May.

Prize was won by Ron Francis. Classroom party will be a Donut party.

Meeting was adjourned by Anne Matzek. Seconded by Chery Kaufer.