

ST. THOMAS HIGH SCHOOL

BASILIAN FATHERS – 1900

St. Thomas High School

Mothers’ Club General Meeting

February 12, 2020

Minutes

1. WELCOME/OPENING PRAYER

The February 2020 General Meeting of the Mothers’ Club was held in St. Basil Hall on February 12, 2020. Meryl Gregory, President, called the meeting to order at 11:42am and led us in prayer.

Quorum - Yes

Minutes Approved - Yes

1. PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Father Jim Murphy, SCB
   1. February 24 – hoping the entrance off Shepherd Drive will be open. Once this happens, the school will notify everyone about the traffic flow and the current Joplin go through entrance will close.
   2. Work on the Joplin Campus renovations will start as soon as possible. Specifically, the interim Athletic Center which includes the small gym, the cafeteria, the food prep area and the old natatorium. The interim Athletic Center will be available to the entire student body as well as adults. There will also be some resurfacing.
   3. Over the next year or so there will be a more complete renovation of St. Basil Hall. Changing the occupancy code from residential to school office space.
   4. This past weekend Dr. Dominguez and I had the opportunity to meet with the presidents and principals of our Basilian high schools to continue the conversation about Basilian education. Next Monday, during the Round Up holiday, the faculty and staff will have a faculty faith formation morning with Father John Huber. The idea of expanding Basilian education and use as a platform at St. Thomas High School.
   5. Admission Season is in full swing. Thank you to everyone for sharing your experience of STH with others about the benefit of a St. Thomas education.
      * Congratulations to the STH Swim Team for winning State for TWO years in a row.
      * Congratulations to our Quiz Bowl Team for winning the National WWII Championship. Two of our boys are four year national champions!!
      * Congratulations to the Chess Team for winning a tournament. 5 of the 6 team members finished either 1st or 2nd.
      * We have so much to be proud of both academically and athletically.
   6. Question regarding a stop light to make turning into campus easier when coming from I10: We have been in constant communication with the city for a long time regarding a stop light on Shepherd, but have been turned down numerous times. Dr. Dominguez suggested coming down Yale for safer access to campus.
2. GUEST SPEAKER – Director of Student Activity, Mr. Joe O’Brien
   1. Has been at STH over 33 years!
   2. Started off the year with a blast. It was front packed with Orientation Dance, Fish Week, Walk-a-thon and Homecoming all within a span of a month.
   3. Very successful Fall Olympics. The highlight was the addition of food trucks.
   4. Knee deep into Round Up
      1. Just finished the Phone-a-thon
      2. Letter writing campaign is starting now. Working on getting about 7000 letters out to our alumni. If your son has not taken care of his quota, have him see Mr. O’Brien.
      3. Incentives – 1st quota is a Round Up T-shirt, 2nd Quota they are able to wear their shirt throughout the month of March, 3rd Quota is lunch at the Cadillac Bar, 4th Quota is STH Gear and the 5th Quota is taking a day off school to celebrate at Dave & Busters or Top Golf.
   5. Prom – April 4th at Rockefellers
   6. STH is in talks with Duchesne about possibly doing a joint prom in the future to reduce the number of formals for the boys (to cut down on costs) and possibly doing a bigger venue. Not a done deal… there are details and obstacles that need to be addressed.
   7. Walk-a-thon activities – Crawfish boil, baseball game, etc… these will be announced to the boys soon and will also be in the Big Red News to make parents aware as well.
   8. Clubs – We would like to work on strengthening our clubs to increase enthusiasm among moderators and students and to find good meeting times.
   9. Celebrating Diversity at STH – Next year we would like to do some type of festival or fair that celebrates all the diversity and different cultures at STH. If you have ideas or experience in this area, please reach out to Mr. O’Brien.
   10. Student Activity Center (formerly Mary Moody) – Huge hit with the boys. They take advantage of the space all day long.
3. PRINCIPAL’S REPORT – Dr. Aaron Dominguez ‘96
   1. Monday, February 17 is a Round Up holiday for boys who have sold at least one quota and have it turned in by February 13. The boys have received several emails communicating the requirements for having the day off.
   2. Admission Season
      1. Cultivating relationships portion is complete.
      2. Currently in admission review phase
         1. Numbers line up similarly to last year
         2. All files will be reviewed by the end of the month
      3. Decisions will be sent out March 13th along with the majority of financial aid decisions.
      4. New Eagle Welcome will be held March 27 – fun event with crawfish, music, rugby game, the play, etc…
      5. New Eagle Registration night is April 3
   3. Budgeting has been complete for next year
      1. 6 additional teachers (Spanish, Math, English and Theology)
   4. Accreditation is complete after a two year process
      1. A lot of positive feedback from the review committee
      2. Accommodations
         1. Strong sense of community
         2. Strong Catholic identity throughout the school
         3. Long range vision of professional development and hiring practices
         4. Cleanliness of the school… our wonderful custodial staff of Sergio and his team as well as Troy and his team received high praise with no areas of improvement!
      3. Areas of Improvement
         1. Expanding and developing our Faculty Faith Formation
         2. Messaging, executing and monitoring the successful implementation of our strategic direction
         3. Continuing to formalize and improve the process of analyzing student data to inform instructional decisions
         4. Continue to expand and develop the House System that we have begun
4. OFFICER REPORTS
   1. President – Meryl Gregory
      * Eagle Scholars Night – 3rd year. Highlights the academics at STH inviting prospective students who excel academically to hear what we have to offer.
      * New Eagle Registration – Need volunteers for April 3. SignUp Genius will be sent out for help with time and food.
      * Tom’s Moms – They are a huge support to the school with Mother/Son Mass, Tom’s Moms desserts for Round Up, etc.... They are revamping their process a bit. They are still going to support us as usual, but they are eliminating their meetings. They will now fall under Mothers’ Club and Advancement. They will have 2 liaisons: One will come to the Mothers’ Club meetings to find out what is happening on campus and report back to the Toms Moms. The other liaison will be the communications person for emails and SignUp Genius to get volunteers. Senior Moms – we will be looking for moms to volunteer for these 2 positions.
   2. Vice President – Barbara Pane

* Reminder that Mass is held before the meetings at 11:00am in the Chapel.
* If you have chaired an event and you would like to do it next year or you know of a replacement, I need to know so I can start filling those positions.
  1. Treasurer – Laura Sage via proxy Meryl
* No Report
  1. Communication Secretary – Dena Skucius via proxy Meryl
     + No Report
  2. Recording Secretary – Gwen McKeehan
* Minutes approved – Motion by Shawn Savarino, Seconded by Meryl Gregory
  1. Past President – Shawn Savarino
* Self-Nomination Forms for the 2020/2021 Executive Board positions – Please consider applying, it is a wonderful experience. Descriptions of the different positions are available. If you have any questions, please ask me.
  + Selection committee:
    - 5 Senior Moms – Barbara Pane, Laura Sage, Dena Skucius, Gwen McKeehan and Elizabeth Groff
    - Current President, Meryl Gregory and Past President, Shawn Savarino
    - Mark deTranaltes (Club Moderator), Catherine Chandler (Club Liaison), Father Murphy and Dr. Dominguez
  + Qualifications – The hope is to have Senior moms filling the rolls due to their experience at the school as well and the desire to make it better for future students. However, this does not exclude anyone else.
    - Priority for consideration:
      * Mothers of current Juniors who have no other sons at STH
      * Mothers of current Juniors who have other sons at STH
      * Mothers of current Sophomores who have had an older son attend STH all 4 years and has graduated
      * All other STH moms

1. BIG 3 UPDATES
   1. Round Up – Laura Reyes, Amber Caver, Jodi Diamond

* Sunday, March 1, 2020
* Theme Basket donation deadline is Friday, February 14. We have several, but we could use a few more.
* Dinner for Two – If you have a restaurant that you frequent, please consider asking for a donation for a dinner for two, or purchase as a donation. $25 to $100 would be wonderful
* Grade level donations will be requested soon. Seniors and Freshman 2 liter bottles of soda for ring toss, Sophomores cakes for the cake walk, and Juniors desserts for Tom’s Moms
* Underwriting – Friday, February 14 is the deadline.
* We found a new Pupusas sponsor for the food court to replace the previous Pupusas guy
* Boys can sign up for service hours through the Sign Up Genius that has been posted in the *Round Up Gazette* and the *Big Red News*
* Raffle ticket sales available at some area churches this weekend. Check email from Veronica Looper on locations and for the Sign Up Genius
* Donations of prizes are still welcome. Little stuffed animals, toys, etc… Drop off in Tami Navaro or Mark deTranaltes’ office
* Maria Varcados – Big Red Market
  + Save-The-Date for the Big Red Market Preview Night, February 29, 5:00pm-8:00pm. Please plan to come, bring friends, and advertise on your social media pages.
  + Vendor space sold out (there is a waitlist)– more vendors than last year. Moving Booster Club to the foyer to make room for the extra vendors.
  + Wine, light bites, STH jazz band and lots of great shopping!
  + Need adult volunteers for Sunday
  + Will be creating a Facebook event
  1. Style Show – Holly Schlosser, Dena Skucius
* April 24 at River Oaks Country Club
* Theme – *Soaring with Eagles*
* 2 styles of bracelets blessed by Father Murphy available. $40 + Tax
* Senior underwriting letters are going out next week
* Invite prospective moms – it is a wonderful way to highlight our community. It is such a special event. Mentor Moms invite your group to sit together.

1. STANDING COMMITTEE & SPECIAL EVENTS
   1. School Store
      1. The new hours for the store are Tuesday and Thursday 11:00am – 1:00pm
      2. Please consider volunteering to work some shifts. Sign up available through Sign Up Genius
      3. Jenny will need some help working the store on the day of Round Up.
   2. Social Events
      1. February 26, 11:30am Lunch at Black Walnut
      2. March 26 - Bingo in the Heights
   3. Spring Luncheon – Mary Grace Carter
      1. I will have a short meeting after this for those of you who volunteered to help with the event
2. Meeting adjourned 12:42pm