



ST. THOMAS MOTHERS' CLUB

General Meeting Minutes—September 14, 2023

Attendance: In person--42 via Zoom—18

Quorum: Yes

Meeting called to order: Paige Dominey at 12:05 p.m.

I. Welcome/Opening Prayer

Aaron prayed in place of Father Murphy. Paige welcomed everyone.

II. President's Report

Father Jim Murphy, CSB

- The boys witnessed a special event today at Mass--consecration of a new altar built by Phil Gensheimer. Only a Bishop can consecrate an altar. Retired Bishop Ricardo Ramirez performed the consecration.
- Oct. 10—Parent/teacher conferences. 6:30--the blessing of Fr. Wilson Baseball Field. STH strategic plan will also be presented.
- Now seeing the results of a lot of work—new baseball field, parking lot, new driveways.
- Bids are going out for the renovation of St. Basil Hall.
- Future Mothers' Club meetings will be on the Joplin campus (when construction starts at St. Basil Hall). Seven Mile Church will no longer be using the spaces at Joplin. We will have more meeting spaces.
- Good 'ol boys luncheon a few weeks ago—alums who have been out of STH for 35+ years—great attendance. Some guys stayed for our pep rally and checked out the new baseball field.
- One purpose of renovation--create more office space for the adults so the boys have more space that is their own.
- Without phones on campus, boys are playing more--naturally taking over the newly created green space (former baseball field). Part of strategic plan—campus of the future—make sure spaces are conducive to the STH experience.
- First edition of Melodies with Murphy filming was fun. Helping to promote the Annual Fund.
- Find ways to support us. Thank you for all you do. Moms are always welcome here. Tom's Moms too!

III. Guest Speaker

Mr. Rodney Takacs, Dean of Students

- The Dean's office is not what we used to be. Discipline is no longer the best definition. The mission is about nurturing the students to full potential in mind, body, spirit. Not just the adherence to rules. This change is campus wide too. The reality of life for adolescents has changed--more pressures combined with the Pandemic's effects. We are adjusting the level of support to be more consistent with the restorative traditions of the Basilian Fathers. Striving to serve the boys to the fullest extent possible.
- The Restorative discipline model--first stage is a proactive and preventive stage--the adults create an environment of care and respect. Create a community where everyone feels a sense of belonging. We want to share the burdens if there are any obstacles to growth.
- Second stage is repairing and restoring—Requires patience, empathy, and mediation. When a young man gets off track...we go find him, talk during study hall about what prompted his actions. *What is the impact of these actions on self, others, and the institution?* Analyze this in light of his own values and values of STH. Show him patience and empathy.

- Once the harm has been identified, work to repair that harm (i.e. with another student, adult, himself, institution) Reflect on how to avoid the action in the future and make it better going forward. Goal—to have lasting results.
- The Referral System—Faculty and staff were trained in how to be alert to observed concerns, academic or social/emotional. If faculty observe something, a short form is filled out. Issues are then put on a spreadsheet that goes to Mr. Takacs and Mr. Bryant. Social/emotional concerns go to Dean’s Office. Academic concerns go to Mr. Bryant. Concerns are acted upon within 24-48 hours. Range of issues in the referral system-- changes in student attitudes and behaviors, over-reliance on technology, classroom misbehavior, bullying, evidence of personal issues, anxiety & depression. Dean & Assistant Dean meet for lower to middle level concerns. Higher level concerns go to Wellness Counselor, Ms. Marissa Gonzales. Concerns are channeled to the appropriate person—Father Murphy, Communio, Parents...
- Goal—all students have a sense of belonging. Learning and growth is facilitated by care and mutual respect. Lifelong ties to the STH community. All departments are working in conjunction with the leadership to ensure this.

IV. Principal’s Report

Dr. Aaron Dominguez ‘96

- Received a heart-felt letter from a mom of a 2023 graduate that spoke to the heart of what it means to have a boy at STH.
- Aaron used this letter to reflect on the importance of families sharing concerns with the administration and the connection with feeling good about the school. Please don’t be afraid to communicate concerns or challenges with the Administration. We are here for you and want to help and work through any struggles with you. Don’t hesitate to reach out about anything. Engage with someone here for support and for the best interest of your son. Thank you for your involvement and sacrifices made to be here.
- School off to a great start. No hospital visits at Camp Aquinas.
- Tomorrow begins Hispanic Heritage Month, our first cultural celebration at STH--Activities throughout the month culminating with a celebration at the end of the month. Ms. Morfin helping with event. Don’t have to be Hispanic or Latina to help with this.

V. Annual Fund/Advancement

Mark deTranaites

- Changes this year with Annual fund, annual drive July 1-June 30. Annual Fund helps everything on campus from Sergio and his crew to all aspects of the school. This year we are concentrating the effort Aug-Sept. Hoping to have all gifts in early, by Sept. 30 from current STH families. Some prizes and offerings.
- Celebrated Alison’s birthday and 10 year anniversary.

VI. Officer Reports

A. President

Paige Dominey

● **Old Business**

- Welcome Tea was wonderful! Thank you Event Chairs, Julie Lang and Jessica Kent.
- Thank you to the Tom’s Moms for helping with Back to School Night.
- Thank you Ally Hartley and Kerry Taylor, Chairs for the Specs Wine Pull Event.
- Make sure you are getting the **Big Red News**. Let us know if you aren’t.

● **New Business**

- Volunteers are needed for some Events—NHS Induction, Academic Awards in the Spring, Baccalaureate Bash, MC December luncheon, College Night at Strake Jesuit Oct. 4, and National Honor Society Induction.
- Reach out and consider helping and being involved.

B. Vice President

Judy Wittman

C. Treasurer

Kris Peters

- Mother's Club is not our own legal entity. We fall under the school umbrella and our faculty representatives are in Advancement--Mark deTranltes and Gretchen Penny.
- When you chair an event, you will receive a binder that will include instructions and the budget for the event. Keep track of all money spent, even if you donate it, so we can know what to budget for the event the following year and future chairs don't feel like they have to donate money.
- If you chair an event and buy items, you will get reimbursed from the school. Turn your form in to Kris.
- Sales tax cannot be reimbursed. Use the tax exempt certificate when you purchase items. All forms can be found on the website.

D. Communications Secretary Amy Price

- The Mother's Club Newsletter comes out with the Big Red News on Wednesdays.
- If you want to put something in the Newsletter, the deadline to send something to Amy by email is Sunday at 6:00 p.m.
- Watch your email inbox for emails from grade level representatives. Class Facebook pages also have information going out.

E. Recording Secretary Davalyn Bone

- Minutes from the meetings will be posted on the Mother's Club section on the website after they are approved.

F. Past President Emily Guyre

- Thank you to Tom's Moms for helping with the snack table at Back to School Night.
- Happy Hour Oct. 19 at Federal American Grille.
- Jenny Hanks is co chairing the Christmas decorations.
- Need a Mother/Son Mass volunteer to hand out donuts and kolaches.
- Gallentine Cocktail party Feb. 8 at Dee Dee Garcia's home. Pickle Ball event in Spring.
- Mary Y. doing desserts for Round Up.

VII. Big Three Updates

A. Auction/Gala Maru Pruneda, Maria Morfin, Liz Brown, Cheryl Dzurec

- Nov. 4 Theme--Stepping back into the 50's rocking and rolling. Silent Auction in the gym. Live Auction and dinner in Cemo. You can put your own table together or we can help you put a table together.
- Wine Pull at Specs in August--great turn out.
- Wine Pull Tailgate, Sept. 22 in the Grove before the football game. 6-7 p.m. Donate a bottle of wine or spirit for \$50 or bring \$50 that will go towards the Wine Pull at the Auction.
- Jewelry donated for the raffle by Thomas Markle Jewelers. Raffle tickets on sale for \$100. (Only 100 tickets will be sold.) Don't have to be present to win. Tickets are also for sale at the Tailgate, at the Oct. mtg, and the night of the event.
- Big Board happens at the Silent Auction portion. We have some sports event tickets, college game tickets, dinners, and trips.
- 10 big items will be auctioned at the Live Auction (Ireland trip again!). We will have the Golden ticket raffle for \$200 (must be present at the Auction to purchase) The winning Golden ticket gets first choice at one of the Live Auction items.
- Still open to donations if you have a vacation home or sports events tickets, etc.
- Silent Auction opens online a week before the event. QR codes for the Grade level registries are on the newsletter. Items purchased arrive to the school and are put together in baskets. We also accept any donations; any new items you may not need, gift cards to stores, restaurants, etc. We can find a place for them in the baskets. We can also use baskets if you have some to donate.
- What to wear to the Auction? 50's fun or wear anything in your closet.

- Decorations Chair is looking for volunteers to help decorate. Specifically need someone who can create balloon sculptures.
- Need volunteers to help with the invitations the end of Sept.
- Read **Gala is the Word** newsletter sent via email on Tuesdays.
- Sept. 22 is the deadline for recognition in the mailed invitation.

B. Round Up **Tiffany Davila, Megan Long, Carmen Trevino, Jennifer Langin**

- Food, games, Eagle's court, a lot of availability to volunteer—first Sunday in March!

C. Style Show **Haley Finkelman, Killian Gilbert-Smith, Kathleen Brickley**

- April 26 at River Oaks CC. Honors Seniors and Senior Moms.

VIII. Standing Committees & Special Events

A. Dances (Orientation Dance and Homecoming) **Irma Rodriguez**

- Thank you to volunteers at the Orientation Dance.
- Homecoming Dance Oct. 14-- Sign Up Genius going out for chaperones and items needed like candies, etc.
- Walkathon Sept. 18--a way to buy tickets--Diamond Level gets tickets to Homecoming Dance.

B. Homecoming Mums—Music Guild **Betsy Denson**

- Mums and garters for sale online--Eagle store--until Oct. 9 or until we run out. Lots of options—All on the MC newsletter—examples--Acrylic center style, Texas theme design is new this year, single senior mum available that is gold (limited supply). Single, double and triple mums available, names on ribbons.
- Homecoming 101 is on the website.
- Pick up mums at the school.

C. Admissions **Stephanie Yankowsky**

- We all have an interest in having good students come to STH. Students are a big source of what our school is about and the school's reputation. Admissions is a well-run machine and it is fun to be involved. Mostly, just having conversations with people about the school. Your involvement can be at events or having conversations with friends.
- Events coming up—End Zone Rally, Sept. 22. All events are on the Sign Up Genius. Come to one or all. New this year--Open Houses, informal gatherings at current families' homes. We will target various middle schools and feeder schools.

D. Cookie Break **Nichola Carr-Welch**

- Cookie day is once a month. The boys love it! Volunteers bake or donate money for the cookies, and distribute the cookies. Every student receives a baggie with 2 cookies (3-5 inches).
- Thank you for all the ways you participate. Try and spread the love and give everyone a chance to distribute before you sign up a second time.
- Dates are all on the Sign Up Genius through December (Sept. 20, Oct. 17, Nov. 15, Dec 13).

E. Booster Club **Paige Dominey**

- Homecoming shirts (preorder only) are on sale until Sept. 20. The link to purchase is on the newsletter. Get one for your son's date, too. \$18 each.

F. Eagle Treats **Fatima Maniar, Janna Moore, Crystal Cruz**

- Monthly treats for the staff and faculty. The Sign Up Genius is on the newsletter.
- Coming up is Halloween themed on Oct. 17, pies in Nov, catered luncheon in Dec.

- In Sept. we had goodies in the faculty lounge.
- Great way to support the teachers and show appreciation!

G. MC Social Events

Nina Boutte

- Next Social—Sept. 21—lunch at Dish Society, 1050 Yale Street; 11:30 a.m.

H. Eagle Angels

Anita Bryant

- Ministry support group for STH families who are going through sickness, death in family, job issues, issues desiring prayer, any crisis, etc.
- Confidential group. Works with the Dean's Office.
- Also have a subgroup that supports widows and widowers.

I. Moms in Prayer

Kris Peters

- Meet Wed 8:00-9:00 a.m. via Zoom (link is in the newsletter.)
- First Wed. of month we meet in the Chapel on campus.
- Pray for school community and our own Eagle boys.
- Wonderful group for encouragement and support! Anything shared stays confidential.

J. Young Life

Amy Huggins

- 4th year we have had YL at STH. Have combined group with Duchesne and IWA.
- Meet Monday night at 7:13 p.m. Great showing for the first one.
- Party with a purpose. Have food and fun.
- Rachel Andrade, Area director, and UH volunteers. Great program to check out!
- STH boys receive extra credit for Theology class.

IX. Closing Comments

- Welcome to Gretchen Penny, a former Mother's Club President, who has taken Catherine Chandler's position in Advancement.

X. Meeting Adjourned at 1:40

Thursday, October 12--Next Mothers' Club Mass @ 11:30 a.m. & General Meeting @ 12 noon.
Guest Speaker will be Dr. Max Holmes, Director of Admissions.

September

18 @ 12n-3p Walk-A-Thon
21 @ 11:30A MC Social - Lunch at Dish Society - 1050 Yale
22 @6p Auction & Gala Football Tailgate, The Grove, STH v. John Paul II / Endzone Rally
26 @ 11:30A Picture makeup day (underclassmen)
27 @ 630p National Honor Society Induction
28 @ 6P College Financial Planning in Cemo Auditorium (open to all grades)

October

4 @ 6-8p Catholic High School College Fair – Strake Jesuit
TBD Possible Auction & Gala All Committee Meeting
12 @ 11:30a Mass & Mothers' Club General Meeting
13 @ 7p Homecoming Football Game v. Concordia Lutheran
14 @ 8:30-11p Homecoming Dance

November

1 @ 7:50a Father/Son Mass
3 @8a Auction Set Up and Decorations
4 @6p Auction & Gala "Hopelessly Devoted to STH"
9 @ 11:30a Mass & Mothers' Club General Meeting
10 @ 12-3p Fall Olympics

11 @ 7a-3p ISEE Testing

December

3 @ 1-4p Open House

8 @ 7:50 Mother/Son Mass

8 @ 11:30a Mothers' Club Christmas Luncheon

January

11 @ 11:30a Mass & Mothers' Club General Meeting

TBD Round Up Meeting #1

February

TBD Prospective Athlete Night

8 @ 11:30a Mass & Mothers' Club General Meeting

TBD Round Up Meeting #2

March

2 @ TBD – Big Red Market @ Round Up Preview Night

3 @ 12p-6p Round Up

3 @ 11a-530p Big Red Market in Reckling Gym

21 @ 11:30a Mass & Mothers' Club General Meeting

22 @ 6-8p New Eagle Welcome

April

11 @ 11:30a Mass & Mothers' Club General Meeting

26 @ 11a Style Show

TBD Prom

May

2 @ 6-8p Mentor Mom Social

10 @ 12p-2p Mothers' Club Spring Luncheon @ JLH

24 @ TBD Junior Ring Ceremony

24 @ TBD Baccalaureate Bash

25 @ 10a Graduation with Baccalaureate Mass – Class of 2024