



St. Anthony's School

5680 N. Maroa Avenue Fresno, California 93704 559-435-0700
Children - Our Most Important Investment & Future Assets

PTO Meeting Minutes October 12, 2006 Room 14 12:00

- I. Meeting Called to order 12:00 by President Debbie Martin.
- II. Mr. Carey presented opening prayer.
- III. OLD MINUTES: Minutes from Sept 12, 2006 meeting read by Lori Shayesteh.
 - a. Approved. Minutes will be available in school website.
 - b. Debbie Martin welcomes questions and discussions: debdmartin@comcast.net or 978-3024.
- IV. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT---Mr. Carey
 - a. Thank you parents, teachers and Parish Leadership Committee for attending.
 - b. ITBS testing complete. We should have results mid-Nov.—Thank you supportive parents for sending well-prepared children during testing week.
 - c. Carnival--- Thank you PTO for another very successful Carnival. This event is a wonderful community builder. Mr. and Mrs. Kemble report \$60,000 raffle ticket sales from the school and church!
 - d. WASC writing year (Western Association of Schools and Colleges). This is important process helps us evaluate how we are doing and what areas we may need improvement in. Surveys are given to staff, parents, and students. An independent group reviews the various data and assess if we are meeting our goals.
 - e. New Social Studies text books---Each year a subject is reviewed by the staff. This year the intermediate grades' social study books were replaced (\$40,000). We are waiting for one more set of books. This year the staff will review the Science program for recommendations for next year's plan.
 - f. Safe Environment---Thank you to the many parents that have been responsive and completed their fingerprinting and online information program.
 - g. October is Rosary Month—the students have been joining the parishioners to pray
 - h. St. Francis Day Pet Blessing---On Oct 2, the 4th graders brought their pets to school and all students' pets were blessed.
- V. TREASURER'S REPORT—Mike Loughney
 - a. Golf Classic---to date, sales and support are looking good.
 - b. Carnival---Figures have passed last year's \$73,000 mark. Will have a final report at the November meeting.

VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT---Debbie Martin

- a. Thank you John Ferdinandi for providing lunch from Me-n-Eds pizza.
- b. Thank you to the Parish Leadership Committee for joining us today to discuss the plans/status of the Community Center and answer parent/staff questions. John Ferdinandi, John Bonadelle, Tim Harris, Mr. Shively, Kathleen Keener
- c. Thank you teachers for attending: Mrs. Ray, Mrs. Gennock, Ms. Ostdiek, Mrs. Peerson
- d. Carnival---Thank you to this year's chairs: Deb Martin, Cynthia Brannon and Kathi Woodward and all the committee who gave so much of your time to make our Carnival a huge success.
- e. Golf Classic---Oct 26 at Brighton Crest. There's a new committee organizing this year's fun event: Steve Orlando, chairman, Paul McDougal, Michael Fitzgerald and Rob Tookoian. Thank you for your hard work!
Great event support: sponsorships have already exceeded last year's, golfers numbers are high, great raffle prize donations are coming in.
Still welcoming golfers---registration forms are in the office or online. Anyone interested in sponsoring, donating prizes, helping at the event or golfer questions, contact Steve Orlando--
-269-0445.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Parish Leadership Committee
 1. The Committee is here in response to the questions posed at September's PTO meeting about the Community Center and the school grounds. They hope to answer questions, explain events and promote a more comfortable relationship with the school families and PTO. It is hoped that the Committee and PTO can work together to raise funds for the project. The committee is also posting Q&A on the website.
 2. In reviewing the amount and source of funds for the Center, it was identified that only 35% of the St. Anthony's School families contributed---this is puzzling for the committee. The school will dominate the building's use.
 3. The Parish Leadership Committee concludes:
The Community Center will be a dream come true for all of us. Due to the legal issues, the year delay has resulted in a \$2million deficit in funds. The committee is working diligently to raise the extra funds, including recontacting all parishioners. School families will be sent pledge cards asking them to contribute and/or extend their contribution for 2 years. The longer we have the debt, the bigger the strain on the church.
The committee comes to PTO to ask for volunteers to help with the phone trees and mailings. Your time, treasure and/or talents are greatly needed and appreciated.
This is any exciting time for our parish and soon we will celebrate the success of a great Community Center.
- b. Questions and Answers compiled from the September meeting were presented by Mr. Carey---see list following. The Parish Website has a section dedicated to the Community Center---including the committee's goals, history, updates, photos and most frequently asked questions. www.stanthonyfresno.org. There is also a link to it from the school website. www.sasfresno.com

Meeting Adjourned by Debbie Martin

Raffle Winner---1 month Thurs + Friday Hot Lunches---Lisa Garver

Minutes: Tamara Chapman

Some great facts about St. Anthony's School:

638 students

52 staff

2nd lowest tuition in the Diocese of Fresno

St. Anthony's PTO---September 14, 2006 Meeting Q & A follow-up

These are the primary questions asked by parents at the September meeting. Mr. Carey has researched these and presented the following responses at the October meeting.
(This is a rough version from Mr. Carey's presentation with October meeting discussion and November updates included)

A little history on the progress St. Anthony's has made in the last 15yrs. The original school size was doubled due to enrollment demand. We have added 2 new wings and replaced a portable building with a 3rd new wing of classrooms. And we've added a new playground. We have remodeled the office and added a media center to meet our growing enrollment.

For years we have worked together to help these dreams come true. Now, we are under construction on our Parish Community Center. As principal of St. Anthony's School, this is an answer to many of our prayers. We need more space as a parish for growing ministries and for youth and our school. We are in need of additional classrooms to meet the demands of our many organizations and groups, and for school electives, and so much more.

We have made other improvements in personnel. We have a full-time Athletic Director, Technology Coordinator, tutor, counselor, additional teacher's aides in 1st and 4th grades, and much more. This is a vibrant Catholic School Community. I am grateful for each improvement, all which are the results of parents and staff working together.

1. How long will the construction fencing be up?

Answer: It will remain up until construction is completed---early Fall 2007

Discussion: Question posed concerning completion of the asphalt project. Initial work to be completed in November. Final layer (topcoat) to be completed by the beginning of Jan 2007.

2. Can the large water fountain on the playground be fixed? Can temporary material be added to stop flooding immediately?

Answer: Mr. Neumeier has met with the engineer. There was a design flaw in the drainage system. Apparently, the dry well doesn't hold enough water. Also, the children like to play around it, putting sticks in the fountain. We have turned off the fountain until repairs can be made. Please realize that all drinking fountains were of that design until 3 years ago. We have replaced one near the office and two near the bathrooms. We, too, can't wait for this one to be replaced. It is unknown when it will be repaired.

3. Due to limited play space caused by construction, can we offer children other activity options at recess (boardgames, structured games, relays, etc)?

Answer: We can always offer our students more at recess. Let me share that for years I would take a cart full of play equipment out for the children to play with---we even had organized games, including 8th grade referees. However, the more we read about the importance of creative play in developing not only social skills, but intelligence, the 'structured' play has become less of the focus. Parents are welcome to come to recess and arrange specific games, set-up board games, whatever. It just takes parent involvement. Our teachers are not available at that time, as they are on their lunch break.

Discussion:

- a. Teachers Mrs. Pearson and Mrs. Gennock gave positive feedback about the playground situation. They believe the students are quite resilient, have adjusted smoothly and have plenty of play area. They also comment that the construction workers are friendly, considerate and helpful and are very respectful of the students safety.
- b. Mr. Carey will ask Coach McConico for his recommendations for the ideal school playground to assure the students have optimum use of their space. Also, he will look into which games will be painted on the courts.

4. When exactly will the swings be reinstalled?

Answer: An exact date is not known at this time.

5. Can the 4 mature trees that were removed be replanted at the basketball courts or will they be relocated ?

Answer: We can't replace the trees near the court, as they will be in the way of the activities. We did replant the 4 trees---2 of them along our fence line on Browning and 2 of them along our existing tree line nearest soccer fields.

6. Will the City definitely approve the basketball and other game lines to be painted over the parking lines on the new blacktop extension?

Answer: During school time, it is a playground, not a parking lot. We can design this new playground to best meet the needs of the students. I have asked Mr. McConnico to speak to his staff and teachers for input and then to present a sketch of preferred game lines.

Discussion:

a. A. What is the possibility of not painting parking lines? The committee is unclear and will look into.

November update: Mr. McConnico has completed the proposed sketch to be approved by administration.

7. How many spaces will the teacher's parking lot have?

Answer: 24 parking spaces

8. Where will the \$2million deficit come from?

Answer from Parish Leadership Committee:

We have \$5 million in pledges and savings. We have a deficit of \$1.8million. The diocese has granted the parish a loan so construction can continue. Our goal is to pay that back as soon as possible. The capital campaign has been re-started. We are reaching out to those that have not contributed and asking those that have to consider extending their contribution. We ask and appreciate anyone wanting to share their time, treasure or talent.

9. Is there an updated siteplan available?

Answer: This was shared at the meeting.

10. When will the existing parking lot be repainted?

Focus: safety zones between rows of parked cars needed; signs and chains needed to block off safety zone in front of school.

Answer: Mr. Neumeier and I have discussed the parking lot several times. We were hoping to contract with a company on a school day off (need to close half of the lot). The parish is currently trying to reach an agreement.

Discussion: Several parents again express concerns of parking lot safety. Some suggestions:

- a. Crossing guards with orange vests and stop signs
- b. Difficult to see the small cones
- c. Can the paving company work on weekends?
- d. At the end of mass, could the priest remind parishioners to be very careful in the parking lot.
- e. Can mass time on school days be moved?
- f. The safety walkway between cars that leads to the crosswalk is gone. Could a walkway be roped off?

November update: Scheduled for Nov 10---Veterans Day—No School

11. Can Parish rectory be renovated in the future to allow church to use it rather than the Community Center during school hours?

Answer: The parish rectory was already renovated and the garage was turned into a meeting room. This should not be an issue because we will share the Center----it will primarily be the school's during the day and the parish will use it in the evening /non-school time.

12. Can Mr. Neumeier attend the next PTO meeting to share construction information or is there another informational meeting parents can attend ?

The Parish Leadership Committee attended this October PTO meeting to answer parents' questions and share the plans for the center and fundraising.

The Parish Website has a section dedicated to the Community Center---including the committee's goals, history, updates, photos and most frequently asked questions. www.stanthonyfresno.org.

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13. Will the school be able to use the Community Center during school hours?

Answer: Mr. Carey notes that the whole school will benefit. It will be used on rainy days, bad air days. There are 6 classroom/meeting rooms that will be used for music, electives. The athletic program will now have a gym with basketball and volleyball courts for practice and competition.

14. Is there a kitchen in the Center?

Answer: There will be an access window for a snack bar for events.

The school kitchen will be remodeled and upgraded in time and the social hall could be used as a cafeteria in the future.

