

SAINT VIATOR PARENTS' CLUB MINUTES OF THE MEETING 11-05-07

Present: Deni Janus, Cheryl Lardner, Cathy Sweeney, Pam Tidaback, Margaret Beiswenger, Sharon McKee, Barbara Frenzer, Terri Bordes, Kathy Loy, Jackie Frett, Kay Haubenreiser, Jean Spiegelhalter, Lori Cataldo, Teresa Stewart, Sue Abrahamson, Barb Siemienas, Carole Sandmeier, Kathleen Guth, Sondra Stanley, Mike Cowsert, Debbie Roman, Renee Diak-Witek, Eileen Manno and Bridget Platania.

Others were in attendance; the attendance sign-in sheet had been circulated, but not returned.

THE MEETING:

The meeting was brought to order at 8:00pm by Parent's Club President Jean Spiegelhalter, who welcomed all and led us in the prayer. A motion was made to approve the minutes from the October meeting, with one minor change. Under the 'Arlington Heights Officers' Report, Officer Hajck should be removed, as Officer Mike Cowsert is working alone this year. Pam Tidaback motioned to approve the minutes and Deni Janus seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

School Principal Eileen Manno began by stating that the first quarter ended last week and the grades are posted online. This Thursday begins parent conferences and there is one more day to sign up online; afterward you must call in to schedule a conference. When scheduling the online conference, it cannot be changed online. In the future, administration will pursue summer and regular registration in this manner. Normally, 200 conferences are scheduled via phone; 351 were schedule online.

130 kids have signed up for ski trip, and priority is not given to seniors. Mrs. Manno wants all ages to attend.

Counselors are currently discussing the PSAT results.

Thanks to those who worked the Open House yesterday. Even though there was no Bears game, the good weather possibly kept attendance down.

Mrs. Manno wanted to talk about the Sophomore Drinking Party that occurred in October. She said there were incorrect rumors circulating, and the seniors had been taunting the sophomores. She had heard back from college grads and students that had heard it was a "wild orgy." Administration had learned of the party from a reliable source and had compiled a list of attendees. They had interviewed each student on the list, and met with their parents last Thursday night. She wanted to state that the rumors were greatly exaggerated. Alcohol had been brought into the parent's house in water bottles, or the kids had been drinking before attending the party. Liquor was not provided by an adult. The kids need to make better choices, as school cares enough about them to hold them accountable. School stepped in on the sophomore web site, so kids' reputations would not be damaged. Kids must leave these parties if there is drinking present. We want to keep them safe.

PARENTS' CLUB PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- CAMPUS MINISTRY – ADOPT A FAMILY – COLLECTION AND LEADERSHIP:

Parents' Club President Jean Spiegelhalter passed around an envelope for monetary donations for Adopt a Family. Jean also passed around a sign up sheet, for those who would like to shop or wrap the presents. The flyer is in the Lion Lines for those that would like to Adopt-A-Family themselves.

- CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION SIGNUP:

There will be no pre-meeting speaker in December; instead a Christmas Party will begin at 7:00pm. A sign up sheet was circulated to bring food and drinks.

2007-2008 KEY EVENTS:

- HOUSEWALK – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2007:

Bridget Platania stated the Housewalk was well attended, with 175 tickets sold. The houses were beautiful and we thank the gracious homeowners for allowing their homes to be showcased. Expenses were kept to a minimum, so net revenue will be about \$6,200. This is a solid start to Senior Events fundraising efforts, which pays for the Post Prom Boat Cruise and Senior Celebration.

- FASHION SHOW – SUNDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2007:

Carol Sandmeier said she expects about 600 attendees for the Fashion Show this Sunday at the Stonegate in Hoffman Estates. There are 186 models, and the largest senior group ever. Fran Bertolini has overcome the challenge of this many models. Each year they lose old stores and acquire new stores in their place, but feel they cannot continue to lose stores. Many of the larger chain stores are enforcing a policy not to use student models, so we don't have those stores. New this year will be the Jazz Band performing to the Mardi Gras theme. Above all remember this is a fundraiser, and we need to make money. The silent auction has 63-68 items, and there are 82 baskets so far. The baskets are outstanding and very luxurious.

New this year is a special raffle called a Bling Raffle. A freshman parent donated a stainless steel and diamond watch retailing for \$6,000. There will be only a limited amount of tickets sold for this raffle.

There are some sophomores no longer allowed to model, so the show will still on. Please tell your kids that if their walking partner will be missing, not to worry. Necessary adjustments will be made and the show will still go on.

The staff, including Mrs. Manno, and Barbara Seimenas (her co-chair) will be modeling furs in the show. York Furriers is donating a fur to be raffled off.

Please show your support to the participating stores.

- METROPOLIS-SECOND CITY – SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 2008

Teresa Stewart presented this, as Eileen Cortese was absent due to attending the boys' soccer banquet. Teresa passed out information on the Metropolis fundraiser. She said it was going to be a fun evening, but contained very adult content. It is a fundraiser for Senior Events, and will sell out. There are about 300 tickets available and seating is first come/first served.

- FLORAL SHOW – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2008

Sue Abrahamson reported that all florists and the commentator will be back.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Deni Janus reported that there is currently \$33,214 in the General Account and \$5,535 in the Senior Events Account.

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS OFFICER'S REPORT:

Officer Mike Cowsert said they are working on Village funding to have placards printed and placed in liquor stores. It will take a couple of months to develop and distribute them. These placards will help greatly, as kids are paying adults extra money to buy them booze in liquor establishments. The placard will warn that purchasing liquor for a minor is a punishable offense. If all goes as planned, all liquor establishments will be required to display them.

Arlington Heights Police School Safety Advisory Task Force will be presenting a crisis drill at South Middle School in June. They will be educating administrators and faculty for school response to crisis and lockdowns, as well as training officers. All schools have fire drills, but no school shooting drills. There have been 24 school shootings since Columbine occurred.

In November, Illinois State Senator Dan Kotowski will be attempting to pass legislation regarding School Safety. The Task Force will present a booklet to him of past Task Force achievements, hoping he will invite the Task Force to help present the legislation in Springfield.

Introduced to it at Saint Viator, the Task Force introduced the presentation of "Rachel's Challenge" to South and Thomas Middle Schools. This presentation deals with bullying. The task force will be raising money for their campaign "Operation Respect Each Other." The idea is to buy banners and post them at each school in Arlington Heights. They want to make a DVD and show it on the public access channel.

Officer Cowsert will soon be making presentations in health classes. In the spring they will show students alcohol impairment by bringing in pedal cars. They offer internet safety classes for groups.

Gwen Pallone began a discussion regarding Saint Viator's security. Eileen Manno stated that the school has worked with the Arlington Heights Police since Columbine and based upon their recommendations, has taken different precautions and done remodeling, such as the newly installed front doors. All perimeter doors are locked at the first bell. Cheryl Lardner pointed out that the swim doors are unlocked after school and on Saturdays, as the Alligator Swim Club rents out the pool. Mrs. Manno said she will look into this.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- HOSPITALITY:

Marilyn Rittmeyer was not in attendance, so Barbara Frenzer spoke, as she is returning to this committee to help out. Jean Spiegelhalter thanked Barbara for this. As class reps are responsible for helping to coordinate hospitality volunteers, Barbara reported that she found that some class reps have not been checking their email on a regular basis.

For the next Open House, they are expecting the same numbers as they just had on the Sunday Open House. Beverly will be the point person for it, and volunteers are needed for cleanup, from 9:00pm until 9:30pm.

The Spring Open House will be new and directed towards the incoming 7th grader and their parents. This Open House is to combat our competitor schools being more aggressive in recruiting students. As this is a new Hospitality event, Barbara stated they need volunteers for it. Eileen Manno said it will be on a much smaller scale compared to the other Open Houses.

- CLASS REPRESENTATIVES:

Cathy Sweeney said the Freshman Class Reps will be making phone calls regarding the November 28th Open House.

- SENIOR EVENTS:

SENIOR CELEBRATION – MAY 9, 2008:

Deni Janus and Terri Bordes both stated that they will begin meeting this month.

POST PROM – MAY 16, 2008

It was announced that Cheryl Lardner has agreed to take this position, as it has been vacant.

- MARKETING/WEB PAGE:

Teresa Stewart reported that tomorrow (11/06) is the deadline for Lion Lines. She wrote up a 'Thank You' for the Housewalk volunteers, which she would like to submit for the next issue. She has gotten positive feedback on articles she has put on the website dealing with underage drinking. She will be posting a 'Save the Date' for Floral Show.

NEW BUSINESS:

A discussion began regarding how the students are dancing (grinding) at student dances. An article appeared this past week in the Wall Street Journal. It stated that some high schools have been canceling their dances because the kids aren't attending, since their school's administration won't allow them to dance as they want.

Eileen Manno said the homecoming dance at Saint Viator was well attended, but the kids grind. It is hard to get faculty to chaperone these dances, as the dancing is shocking to them. There were many parents at the meeting who admitted they did not know what 'grinding' was, let alone know it was going on at school dances. It was mentioned that some kids did not have a good time at this past dance. Suggestions were made to change the music, but one parent noted that this is part of their culture, whether we like it or not. Another suggestion was made that the dances could be "themed," as this one was, as the seniors came in costume and had a great time.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget Platania
Recording Co-Secretary