

SAINT IGNATIUS COLLEGE PREP
Parents' Organization
Minutes of Board Meeting
November 13, 2007

Meeting called to order by Gini Marziani and Greg Wrobel at 6:10 p.m., and opened with the Prayer of Generosity of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Minutes were approved as written for the Board and General meetings on October 16, 2007.

I. Recent & Upcoming Events

A. Frosh/Soph Mass. Took place on Sunday, November 4, 2007, with Fr. Joseph Brennan, SJ, presider. The turnout of students and families was good, and the Junior Class Reps decorated the Dining Hall very nicely with a festive Fall flair of colorful gourds, pumpkins, and delicious treats. A final written report will be submitted shortly for the Operations Guide.

B. Annual Benefit. Took place on Sunday, November 11, 2007, featuring the Broadway hit musical, JERSEY BOYS, at the LaSalle Bank Theatre. Alice Luzzi reported that the event sold out and netted more than last year even though no ad book was used this year.

C. Open House. Scheduled for December 2, 2007, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Kathy Bliss reported that plans are well under way. The event will be similar to last year except for the earlier time. Volunteers still are needed for all three shifts, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Open House is an important event each year for all parents to help showcase our school, and is a perfect opportunity for freshman parents to get involved and share their recent experience with prospective students and their families. Parents who are able to help should contact Kathy Bliss, Joanie Domanico, Ginny Logan, or any other Senior Class Rep.

D. Auction. Scheduled for March 8, 2008. Over 150 parents have volunteered to help, and planning meetings are underway. Additional volunteers are needed, and parents who are able to help should contact Joanie Domanico or Kathy Bliss.

E. Board Christmas Gathering. Scheduled for December 13, 2007, beginning at 6 p.m. in the Brunswick Room. This is a social event with hor'deuvres and drinks provided for Board members and their spouses.

F. Junior Ring Mass. Scheduled for March 2, 2007. Freshmen Class Reps will host and are encouraged to designate Event Chairs and use the information in the Operations Guide to help plan the event. Envelopes with notice of event will be stuffed prior to the Board meeting on February 12, 2008.

II. Old Business.

A. Corresponding Functions

1. General Meeting Email Notice. Post card notice was used for the October meeting but not the November meeting. Email notice for the November General Meeting appears to have worked well, and the event was prominently noted on the Home Page of the school's website. The Board will continue to monitor parent feedback on whether email notice is sufficient, and parents who did not receive email notice for the meeting should advise a member of the Executive Board.

2. Parent Email for School Home Room Announcements. Home room announcements will continue to be posted through Edline but will not be communicated via email, due to concerns over the sensitivity of some information in the announcements and a desire to limit the volume of school communications.

B. Website Maintenance

1. Board & General Meeting Minutes. This is the first General Meeting for which minutes have been prepared and posted to the website. The Board hopes this practice will help keep parents informed about the meetings and encourage attendance.

2. Board and Event Photos. Some digital photos have been sent to the school's IT staff for posting on the Parents' Organization website. Event Chairs are encouraged to designate one or more parents to take photos at events and submit same to Carol Zellner for posting on the website.

3. School Map. The map will not be posted on the website due to security concerns. We will continue to explore whether a map can be posted on Edline.

C. Service Projects

1. Holy Family Food Pantry. Donations to the Food Pantry continue to be the main service project for the Parents' Organization. Donations at the Frosh/Soph Mass on Nov. 4 were very strong, including several monetary gifts. Kathy Bliss reports that The Greater Chicago Food Depository substantially reduced the quantity of food it delivers to the Food Pantry each month, from 2,000 pounds to 500 pounds. Parents are urged to increase donations to help make up the shortfall, as the Food Pantry seeks to meet increasing community needs.

2. Parents Service Clearinghouse. Elizabeth Frith will work with Julie Futterer to add a feature to the Parents' Organization website, to serve as a clearinghouse of information on service projects for parents. Parents are encouraged to submit information on such opportunities to Elizabeth Frith.

3. Fall 2008 Parent Service Project. The Executive Board will continue to discuss options for a parent service event, possibly to replace the Adult Fall Social.

III. New Business

A. Legislative Action Reporting. Kathy Bliss and Pam Cullerton are serving as Legislative Action Liaisons, and will submit information on federal, state, or local legislative matters on interest to parents with students in private schools. Kathy and Pam provided a summary of actions of interest by the Illinois legislature during the 2007 legislative session. A written summary will be forwarded to Board members, event volunteers, and possible to all school parents via email. Parents are encouraged to monitor legislative developments that affect private school students and parents, and communicate their views on same to elected officials.

B. Parent Inquiries & Follow-up. Gini reported on parent inquiries in recent weeks, on topics that include Edline usage and Quest menus for the dining hall, among others. School staff explained that teachers are only required to post a syllabus, quarter grades, and final grade. Other usage of Edline is optional and the actual practice of teachers varies. Edline is one of many tools for parents to learn about class work and student performance. Parents should check with each teacher on how Edline will be used for a particular course, and how best to communicate with the teacher. Quest will provide copies of menu information shortly for posting on the website. Parents are invited to communicate with a member of the Executive Board about any topic of interest or concern.

C. Topics for January & February Board Meetings. Board members and parents are encouraged to communicate to the Executive Board any topics of interest for discussion at the January and February Board meetings, as time may be available to consider new matters.

D. Post Prom Event. Post Prom is a party immediately after the Senior Prom in May. The event is held at the school, and those who plan to attend arrive at school prior to the prom for photos and to drop off casual clothes before proceeding by bus to the prom. After the prom, students return by bus to school for a great night of fun with food, obstacle course, movies, games, and raffles with great teenage prizes until 4 a.m. or so. The night ends with an optional mass. The Parents' Organization does not plan and host this event, but the Parents' Organization recruits parent volunteers (approximately 40 to date), and provides other assistance upon request. Post Prom volunteers will meet at school on November 29, 2007, at 11 a.m. Parents who are able to help should contact the planning committee (sicppostprom@comcast.net), or any member of the Executive Board.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Frith, Recording Secretary