

**Saint Ignatius College Prep**  
**General Meeting**  
**Minutes of: October 7, 2008**

Fr. Paulson led us in the Prayer of Generosity of Saint Ignatius of Loyola. He recapped some of the challenges and highlights of the school year to date including the sudden death of Mrs. Gail Gavron at Mini-Class Night, and the Mass of the Holy Spirit.

Dr. Karl began by noting that the school year is off to a good start. The Ignatian Values days are moving along and have been kicked up a notch. In November the topic will be sexuality. Two speakers will discuss masculinity and femininity. Parents will be kept in the loop via email. The topic for the third-quarter program will be diversity with a presentation on Ash Wednesday. In April, students will read “Never a City so Real” by Alex Kotlowitz, who will speak at school on April 8. She invited parents to read the book and attend the talk. The theme of Ignatian Values this year is “Who Am I and Who are We?”

Ann McAloon invited thoughts and suggestions via phone or email. She previewed topics of upcoming meetings: November 11, College Counseling; March 10, Technology in School; and April 21, State of the School. She also introduced and explained the Target credit card program as a way to raise funds for the school. She then introduced parents Karen Layng, an attorney with a major Chicago law firm specializing in litigation, and Pat Layng, who has served in the Department of Justice for 21 years. They coordinated the evening’s program.

“Employment Background Checks: What You Need to Know as Parents,” the first segment of the program, was presented by Pamela Devata of Seyfarth Shaw Attorneys LLP. She is a specialist in labor and employment law and is a former board member of the National Association of Background Screeners. Based on her experience as an advisor to companies on what they can and cannot do when hiring, she offered insights on what to be aware of regarding hiring practices. Background checks of job applicants have become prevalent for companies. Almost all companies check an applicant’s criminal record (arrests, convictions, and national data base), employment references, education references (grade point), credit, and driving records. They also check the National Sex Offender Registry. In Illinois it is legal to use a criminal record to deny employment, and there is no limit on how far back an employer can check. A juvenile record is not expunged unless granted by the court. Twenty percent of employers use social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace to check applicants. Once material is uploaded to these sites, it can never be deleted. Ms. Devata stressed that one mistake can follow a student for a long time. Employers are also providing more information when a potential new employer calls for a reference. She explained that 67 percent of all resumes contain fraudulent information. They are great resources for employers to check and they need to be accurate. She advised against fudging on grade point average – do not even round up. New trends in Internet sources that employers find extremely useful for checking applicants are: My Space, Friendster, Facebook, YouTube, Google searches, Wikipedia (which is not fact checked) and others. Ms. Devata stressed that these sites are not private. Even if you have a security version it does not mean that photos or your profile will not be viewed. In a Google search, for instance, a Facebook page could come up. Students don’t think about it. Teenage antics and students demonstrating poor judgment could have long-term consequences. She

listed disqualifying information if a prospective employer finds it: inappropriate photos, foul language, offensive postings, rude behavior, name calling, and evidence of illegal activities (under-age drinking, drug use). The activity doesn't have to be illegal to disqualify someone from a job. She encouraged parents to talk to their children about what they are doing and what they are putting on the Internet. She ended with some tips: Don't fudge numbers such as grade points, only provide references of those who will say good things about you, don't post anything on the Internet you wouldn't want your grandmother to see, and realize that the Internet is not private.

A question and answer period followed. Ms. Devata's answers stressed key points: Information on the Internet does not "expire." Others can keep copies. Email is a written, permanent record. It never goes away. While text messaging is perceived as more private, people can get those records. Cell phones may not be secure. She advises her clients not to use social networking sites. Someone can pose as you. She also suggested that people search themselves on Google.

"Criminal Pitfalls of Underage Drinking" was presented by Chicago Police Officer Dan Goddard, a 20-year veteran of the department. He noted a list of illegal activities for young people: possession of alcohol; drinking while driving; lying about your age; occupying a residence where under-age drinking is taking place; renting a hotel room where under-age drinking takes place; carrying, making or obtaining a false ID; and operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol level of more than 0.0. He recapped the monetary fines, loss of points and jail sentences associated with these activities. Penalties for parents who knowingly allow underage drinking have recently changed when someone is hurt or dies as a result of the drinking. Parents need to be parents and stop destructive behavior rather than ignore it. Underage drinking is the leading cause of death among teens. Young people from ages 12 to 20 binge drink. This drinking affects young brains. Drinking is a factor in two-thirds of assault and date rape. The chance of becoming an alcoholic is four times as great if drinking begins at age 15 vs. age 21. Parents need to say "no." Refuse to supply alcohol, be at home when there is a party, make sure no one brings alcohol to the party, talk to other parents and ask them not to provide alcohol, and provide an enjoyable party without alcohol. He noted that Chicago's curfew has changed.

Pat Layng then discussed the lessons to be learned from the Jeffrey and Sara Hutsell case. This Deerfield couple was convicted of child endangerment and obstructing justice after two teens who had been at a party were killed in a car accident. The Hutsell's provided the house for the party. No teens were charged in the accident. The Hutsell's son was granted immunity to testify against them. As a result of this case, penalties have been changed for parents who knowingly permit underage drinking in their homes. For the Hutsells, the action was a misdemeanor. Now it is a felony charge. Mr. Layng noted that subsequently, a parent filed a civil suit against the Hutsell's for negligent supervision. These are mistakes that can resonate for a lifetime.

Next General Meeting is scheduled for November 11, 2008, at 7 p.m.  
Meeting adjourned approximately 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
Mary Ellen Prindiville  
Recording Secretary