

**RESURRECTION SCHOOL PTO MINUTES  
PTO MEETING APRIL 13, 2010**



**IN ATTENDANCE:** Harold Nielsen, George Pitula, Cathy McCordick, Cynthia Savage, Michelle Traynor, Christine Guasco, Irma Rodriguez, Patricia Murphy, Beth Woodtli, Christine Ford, Sue LaFata, Julia Rogers, Tracey Sullivan, Ana I. Messerrly, Siobhan Toohey Marangi, Mary Catherine Dodman, Peg Jackson, Sheila Duggan, Sara Corbo, Shawn Parker, Kate Taubner, Sandra Adamo, Anita Davis and Lisa Carruthers.

**OPENING PRAYER:** Mr. Nielsen opened the meeting with a prayer at about 8:50 a.m.

**PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS:** Monsignor Boyle is on vacation and will not be here today. Our upcoming calendar is heavy. At the end of April, the 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders will take the state ELA exam. In May, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will take the state science exam and, in June, social studies. June also brings the diocesan religion exam.

The final exam schedule will eliminate finals where students have sat for a state or diocesan exam. This lightens the load for students and families and shortens the final exam schedule.

We do not believe that any new state assessments will be added to next year's school schedule. The state can't afford it.

It's too early to discuss the details of next year's calendar. We do know that Easter is late next year—as late as liturgically possible. We will decide later whether to take a winter break. The superintendent is not in favor of winter breaks. Without a winter recess, we will have about 10 weeks of school without a break. We can find more school days by not taking religious holidays. Mr. Nielsen thinks we should be in school on those holy days. Without the winter recess, we get out earlier for the summer vacation. Whether we take a winter break is based purely on the impact to the academic calendar and not on the convenience of teachers. Mr. Nielsen will know more about this winter break issue at our coming PTO meetings.

School will start the Wednesday after Labor Day in September 2010. The first day of school could be an early dismissal day but no decision has yet been made. We have only 11 early dismissal days available during the school year and we need them for staff meetings. Early morning staff meetings are not as productive.

Our next FYI will announce that Monday, May 3, marks the changeover to the summer uniform. This date is flexible and could be changed if the weather requires.

Next Monday, Mr. Nielsen will meet with the Foundation and present a list of items needed by the school for which he seeks funding. We intend to change our social studies

and science curricula. The diocese has arranged for a social studies textbook with a Catholic identity. Mr. Nielsen is happy about this. We will not change our social studies text at this time but will await the new text planned for the diocese. We will be getting a new science series. Mr. Nielsen and the three science teachers will make a decision as to the series later this spring. Next year, we may revise the religion series.

Eight teachers have volunteered for smart board training this summer. This is funded in part by the Foundation. Two spots are paid for by a Consortium grant, saving us \$1000. Mr. Nielsen decides into which classrooms to put the smart boards based upon teacher readiness. While smart boards are a great asset, children are not disadvantaged by learning without one.

The bathrooms in the main building and the front and back entry stairways need to be repaired. These are cosmetic but important changes. It is unclear whether the parish or the Foundation will fund these repairs.

The people who founded and those who continue to work with the Foundation are a wonderful group, giving their time and sometimes their own money to support our school. As a school community, we owe them and the families who support the Foundation a great deal. All schools, including the public schools, are slashing budgets. At this time, we do not need to make cuts, though we are changing procedures to save on expenses.

We may hear next year about new school and parish closings. The Archbishop sent a letter asking us to be prepared for such. There was no tone of resignation in this letter, for which Mr. Nielsen was happy.

For the 11<sup>th</sup> year in a row, our student enrollment will grow next year to upwards of about 620 students. We have room for more students in some but not all grades.

The school is funding a good number of students on scholarship. Mr. Nielsen believes this is a very important.

The administration and Montessori Staff are studying alternatives to the current program to anticipate likely declines in future enrollment. This trend already is evident in the PK 3's as well as the 2-year-old program, whether due to the economy or population shifts. Monsignor will be presented with a summary of staff proposals and these will be discussed. Nothing will be done this coming year, but we must be ready with a plan in case changes are needed in the future.

**TREASURERS' REPORT:** Michelle Traynor drew attention to the auction-related income and expenses as reported in the March financial report (copy attached to hard copy of these minutes). As shown, the auction netted about \$160,000 for the school. The auction committee did a great job.

**PTO ELECTIONS 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR:** The nominating committee did a great job. Please refer to the slate of proposed candidates (a copy is attached to the hard copy of these minutes). By a show of hands, all candidates were approved.

The PTO still needs help in three areas: The Spirit Committee and Spirit Wear Committee need more help. In addition, we need people to form a committee to manage the annual spring fundraiser/auction.

Spirit Wear will be available for sale at the Father's Club Carnival.

**FIRST COMMUNION:** The lottery drawing for First Communion seating will be held on April 16. All are welcome. A First Communion Breakfast for the communicants and their teachers will be held on May 3 hosted by the Hospitality Committee.

**TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY** is May 4. Something special will be planned for the teachers.

**GRANDPARENTS' DAY** for grades 1 to 3 will be held on May 7. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Jill Thompson.

The date for **graduation** remains the same: June 11 at 6 p.m.

We have no date yet for the **May Crowning**.

Our eighth graders will be confirmed on Saturday, May 2 at 3 p.m. The **Confirmation** ceremony usually runs about 90 to 105 minutes.

**CONCLUSION:** The meeting concluded at about 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Murphy  
Secretary