

St. Martha Catholic School Parent Teacher Organization

General Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Travis Davis at 7:05pm

1. Officer's Reports

- a. President's Report: We would like to have more speakers at our meeting in March. If you have any suggestions for people we could invite to speak at our next meeting, please email president@stmarthacs.org
- b. Treasurer's Report: We have reached 61% of our goal for Crusade for Excellence as of December 2018. Another \$20,000 donation came in in January. The January recycled uniform sale was also very successful.

2. Speaker: Mrs. Lisa Phillips of the school advisory board

The safety committee had its first meeting last week. They are currently reviewing the school's arrival/dismissal procedures. They will be using the accreditation team's notes plus research on how other schools operate to make their suggestions. Then the committee will approach the administration, staff, and Mr. Teets with their ideas. The goal for arrival is to have one access point, right now we have three; and to have only staff and students in the building. We must have a report to the accreditation team by April of how our school plans to address their concerns.

3. Principal's Report

Tuition Increases Regarding Safety:

The accreditation process must be repeated every seven years. Self-study is part of the accreditation process. Our faculty, administration, and pastor identified areas of strength within our school and areas for growth, then developed a plan. The committee agreed with the school's plan for growth including: updating security cameras, police presence on campus, and a front office remodel for a more secure entrance.

The accreditation committee was especially concerned with our arrival/dismissal procedures, which was not an area we had seen as a need for growth. We must address these concerns by April, per the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops - Education Dept. (TCCB ED). This is why the safety committee, lead by Mrs. Lisa Phillips, was formed.

For the 2019/2020 school year, we will have full-time police presence in the form of an off-duty HPD police officer. This idea began two years ago as a parent donation for police presence during Wednesday Mass. Because of the positive feedback from our school community, the school added a budget for a part-time police presence this school year; moving in to full-time police presence for next year.

Tuition Increases Regarding Curriculum and Advancement:

We have increased our technology budget to support year to year costs such as insurance plans to cover all damages to devices, wear and tear replacement each year, and an increase in the student to device ratio at our school. Additionally, we are implementing Google Suites for education, including Google certification for all of our teachers. We would also like to update our computer lab and add a media library. We do get some grant money for technology, this year we received \$20,000 to fund our STREAM club. Grant writing is a difficult and arduous process, and this is an area where we could do better. We would welcome parent participation in this process if there are any parents with experience in grant writing.

We are hiring an additional resource teacher for the 2019/2020 school year. Currently, Mrs. Daigre provides support for students with accommodations, as well as one on one instruction and small group instruction with all students, as needed. She also visits all the classrooms on a regular basis to assist the teachers. She provides support with staff development for teachers. Adding another resource teacher would allow our school to continue to support our teachers with differentiation in the classroom, and address individual student learning needs. It would also allow us to provide opportunities for challenging our gifted/talented students. We will begin to identify GT

students, and educate our community on what it means to be identified as GT. Teachers will receive GT PD hours to support all students with that differentiation piece. As a school community we try to be accepting of all potential students, although we do have a testing/screening process. We can only provide services for those students that we have the staff to accommodate.

Additional Funding and Tuition Information:

__We do receive Title 2 and Title 4 funds from HISD. Title 2 funds are for professional development, and Title 4 funds are for student needs and safety. We also receive a subsidy from our parish, this information is posted in the church bulletin during the church's annual financial report. Lastly, our budget had to address the mandated Archdiocesan increase in staff benefit plans of 13.6%. We need to be competitive with the salaries and benefits that other schools in our area offer to get and maintain highly qualified teachers.

4. Old Business

A big "THANK YOU" to Nicole Lux for organizing our room parents and supporting them during the Christmas parties!

5. New Business -

The PTO Board is hoping to sponsor a Career Day fair for our students in May. If you would like to help with this event, please email president@stmarthacs.org

Upcoming PTO/Fundraising Events

Valentine's Day Parties PK-8: Feb. 14

Treats for Teachers: Feb. 14

Steps for Students: Feb 16 <https://www.steps4students.org/>

Conference Day Lunches: Feb. 22

Manners Banquet (Fifth Grade): March 7

Dips/Snacks for Teachers: March 7

PTO Meeting: March 25

6. Announcements/Q&A

If you have suggestions or questions you would like addressed at the next meeting, please email vicepresident@stmarthacs.org, or drop an anonymous note in the suggestion box outside the registrar's office in the main hallway.