

**STMA PTO**  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
September 17, 2009

**In attendance:** Dockendorf, O'Donnell, Kosch, Middeke, VanGrootenbruel, Bosser, Schaefer, Skelly, Hawryluk, Thompson, Austin, Bartman, Lyons, Mooney, O'Connor, Collins, Eckert/Broadhurst, Robinson, Stull, Ennis, Stakem, Horner, Langley, Patil, Merkel, Riesett, Brockett, Shuck, Anfang.

The meeting was called to order by Michelle Anfang at 7:35 p.m. and Chris Siedor led an opening prayer.

**Board of Directors Report:** Mr. Slattery, President of the Board of Directors, reminded parents that he is available for questions or concerns not related to the classroom. He also explained that Mr. Merkel is working on making a model of a catapult, which the middle school students will re-create in a larger format. This will be used for physics experiments. There was also some discussion about the need for a telescope for the school.

**Principal's Report:** Mr. Siedor expressed how impressed he continues to be with the students at the school. He discussed the importance of all of the parents to be 'A School Ambassador', to get the word out to more people about our school. He explained that the school would benefit from more students, and that it is never too late to join the STMA community. Mr. Siedor also thanked everyone for their support and volunteerism- we are off to a great start for a year full of blessings and success! Our children are a daily reflection of the values we are instilling in them- and every parent should be proud of them and renewed in their confidence of STMA.

**PTO Philosophy:** Mrs. Anfang read the PTO Philosophy to the group.  
*Saint Thomas More Academy (STMA) Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) understands the partnership between parents and the school professionals to be essential in the development of values consistent with and reflective of Christian principles.*

*The STMA PTO believes the development and nurturing of the school community is best accomplished in an atmosphere of trust and cooperation with the consideration and respect of the distinctive qualities, talents, abilities, and needs of each person.*

*By providing a vehicle for service, social, and fundraising activities in support of the school, the STMA PTO recognizes the importance of its role in affirming the school community and its members as living expressions of God's love.*

*The PTO seeks to model service, promote good will, and foster a sincere appreciation for the ideals of Catholic school education by being attentive to Gospel values and being worthy representatives of Christian ideals.*

**Mission Statement:** Mrs. Anfang also read the PTO Mission Statement to the group: *The PTO promotes the mission of STMA by providing a means for members of the school community to be of service to the school and for the PTO to be of service to the parents and teachers of the school. The PTO promotes Catholic school education as it facilitates communication between the home and school community.*

**Format of future PTO Meetings:** It was discussed that the PTO meeting format will return to Prayer, Praise & Pasta. Mrs. Anfang explained that families will be asked to contribute a potluck item for dinner (based on one's last name) and we will eat while conducting the PTO meetings in the future.

**Election of the PTO Board:** Families were provided with a ballot. It was suggested, during the meeting, that since there were 4 people on the ballot, and 3 positions, that perhaps the Vice President position could be made into a 2 person, combined job. Some families opposed this idea, stating that the by-laws would have to be re-written, and that it might be difficult to split the position. Others felt that it would be beneficial to have more members of the board, in order to split up all of the work. A discussion continued, and finally a vote was taken. Those that voted to have two Vice Presidents – 4. Those that voted against having two Vice Presidents – 13.

Families then completed their ballots and the votes were tallied while the meeting continued. Once all ballots were accounted for, Mrs. Anfang announced the new PTO Board:

President – Michelle Anfang  
Vice President – Rebecca Skelly  
Secretary – Kimberly Hawryluk  
Treasurer – Mary Katherine Austin

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Mrs. Anfang introduced Clare Langley as the Volunteer Coordinator. Mrs. Langley explained that there are still many opportunities to volunteer at the school, and to please contact her if you would like to help with any of the school activities.

**Pizza Coordinator:** Mrs. Anfang introduced Heather Eckert as the Pizza Coordinator, and explained that if there are any questions about Pizza Day, to please contact Mrs. Eckert.

**Grandparents Day:** Mrs. Anfang announced this year's Grandparents Day will be October 2, 2009. A chairperson is needed for this event. As was the case last year, the plan is to provide a continental breakfast for the children and their grandparents, each class will do a short performance, and all are welcome to attend First Friday Mass.

**Webkinz Bingo:** Mrs. Anfang announced that this will occur on October 3, 2009. The date was moved because the Webkinz provider had a conflict with a previous date, and it was moved to a Saturday so as not to conflict with Sunday Bingo. A chairperson is needed for this event.

**Grapes & Gifts Galore:** Meredith Lyons, Chairperson, explained that Grapes & Gifts Galore will occur on November 7, 2009. She explained that it is a night for beer and wine tasting, food sampling, a cigar bar, and that vendors will be selling items. It will be an ideal time to do Christmas shopping. Meredith explained that she needs a lot of volunteers to make this fundraiser a success. She explained all of the different volunteer opportunities, and asked families to sign up for whatever they feel comfortable doing. She had a sign up sheet at the meeting and asked families to sign up after the meeting.

**Irish Night:** Mr. Merkel explained that in place of the Holiday Celebration, which has been done in the past, this year we will have an Irish Night Celebration on March 20, 2009. Mr. Merkel explained that there will still be a silent auction, and there will be Irish food and dance. A chairperson is needed for this event.

**Playground Equipment:** Mrs. Anfang announced that the \$1,450 that the STMA community voted upon to be used for playgroup equipment was done. A new climbing structure was installed at the very beginning of the school year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next PTO Meeting will occur October 22, 2009.