

Parents of the Heart Meeting Minutes  
September 6, 2007

In attendance:		
Claire O'Grady	Ellen Engel	Kelly Lawrence
Cynthia Patti	Lisa Zirpolo	Sandy Bosca
Sue Brodarick		Barbara Agresti
Beth Aldrich	Amy Andrews	Elizabeth Beck
Paula Belnap	Malou Bernardo	Jill Birringer
Laurie Bish	Jane Bistry	Petey Butler
Doris Cabrera	Marion Cieciora	Helena Gabriel Collins
Lori Cole	Jenifer Coletta	Anne Marie Cook
Bridget Davis	Kelly Dettmann	Joan Ferraro
Lynne Gillow	Jane Goodrich	Andrea Garber
Jackie Grahm	Barbara Hage	Laurel Hansen
Beth Jardelezza	Connie Jurczyk	Stacey Kaniewski
Christine Keich	Pam Kendall	Catherine Kinder
Kathy Lamb	Janice Lee	Lynn Litwin
Gertrude Lyons	Janna Midura	Monica Martinson
Rachel Malueg	Emily Mange	Susan McColgan
Sharon Meyers	Mary Oelerich	Sue Pelier
Julie Perona	Jeaneane Quinn	Lynne Radomski
Lisa Raterman	Susan Robertson	Lisa Scully
Ann Shanahan	Molly Shutt	Maureen Sippel
Michelle Sparks	Aimee Sullivan	Shradha Tamrakar
Nancy Taylor	Alice Toohey	Alice Topping
Karey Walker	Donna Whitacre	Michelle Yousuf

Sister Maxwell  
Nat Wilburn  
Kathy Fivelson  
Tracy Crandall

**Call to Order and Welcome**

Claire O'Grady (President) called the meeting to order at 8:55 by welcoming and thanking new and returning parents. She explained that the Parents of the Heart (POH) meetings would be held the first Thursday of each month at 8:30 in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Sister Maxwell offered a prayer. She then went on to explain the importance of the Five Goals and this year's focus on "The building of community as a Christian value." She also shared some history about the traditions of the Schools, the Mass of the Holy Spirit

taking place the following week, where the student's membership in the worldwide community of Sacred Heart is celebrated.

She also explained the process and evaluation the Trustees went through to arrive at the decision to renovate the 6200 House. Because the structure had an "orange" Lakefront Protection rating, tearing it down was not an option. The renovation begins in October and will take approximately one year to complete. Once it is completed Admissions and Advancement will move to the second floor. Children of the Heart have already relocated to the Rosemont Building.

### **General Update**

Nat Wilburn spoke about important updates and coming events as well as some of the transitions that took place during the summer months. He announced that Mary Ann Ligon was the new Head of Lower School and that she brought 27 years of teaching experience to the job. He shared her gratitude for all the well wishes of the parents.

He discussed the renovation of the 6200 House and explained how it will provide more classroom space in the future. Nat reported that the Chapel project was moving along and that it should be finished by October 1. It will be used primarily as a place of worship.

The faculty returned early and participated in a seminar with Dr. Lynn Leachman, a school counselor in our Sacred Heart School in New Orleans. The focus was on civility, kindness, no bullying and manners. The program will be continued in January with a possible component for parents.

The Commission on Goals consists of five visitors from SHS Network schools who help this location reflect and improve. Parents will be involved in the process and Nat encourages parents to participate.

Nat thanked Pam Kendall for serving for two years as the Room Parent Coordinator and introduced Sandy Bosca as the new parent to fill that role.

Nat reviewed some upcoming school events. He emphasized, in Sally Sharp's absence, that the sign up deadline for after school programs was September 13<sup>th</sup>. Classes that did not meet the minimum enrollment would be cancelled. He also reminded the group that program descriptions and sign ups were online.

He explained that Shaun McTigue was now the full time Athletic Director in order to accommodate the growing athletic program at the school.

Weston Outlaw was working to keep the SHS website accurate and up to date.

Michelle Krage coordinates the school bus program. There are some changes this year: Monday – Thursday, the buses would depart promptly at 3:40.

Ellen Engel introduced Paz Salas as the Outreach Coordinator. Paz reviewed the community programs that in which SHS has been active. She directed parents to go to the website to learn about all the places where the school serves. She explained the procedure for submitting new community service projects. A "Service Proposal" is first filled out, then reviewed by the Academic Team and approved. It needs to be submitted at least one month before the proposed project date. She concluded by reminding the group about International Night, the Tuesday evening before Thanksgiving. Paz finished up by encouraging parents to volunteer as Community Service drivers even if they did not have middle school children.

Mary Burke Peterson was introduced as the head of the Children of the Heart Program. She explained that it was targeted at lower income and immigrant families in the neighborhood. It meets Tuesday and Thursday mornings on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the Rosemont building. SHS parents serve as volunteers, sharing their various expertise and time. She asked for the donation of "gently used" toddler and infant books for the upcoming Family Reading Night on November 7<sup>th</sup>. She also said there was a wish list of items on the SHS website. Volunteers could call 773-681-8496 or email [mary.Peterson@shschicago.org](mailto:mary.Peterson@shschicago.org)

### **Presidents Report**

Claire informed the POH that Field Day had been moved from a fall event back to the spring.

She introduced the Advisory Council Members and thanked last year's End-of-the-Year Luncheon Chairs (Mary Oelerich, Sandy Bosca and Lisa Raterman), the Angel Brunch Chairs (Rina Ranalli, Peter Horwitz and Kathy Manilla), Spiritwear Chairs (Meta Dawson, Leanne Gariti, Eva Pool and Meridith Usleber) and congratulated them on a \$5000 profit.

She thanked the Advisory Council for providing this month's refreshments and explained the School-wide focus on healthy snacks. She asked the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents to bring next month's refreshments.

### **L'Esprit**

Kelly Lawrence and Nancy Coletto explained that last year the event raised \$400,000 for the school. This year's date is March 8<sup>th</sup> and will be held at the Aragon Ballroom again. There will be dinner, dancing, silent and live auctions, and a raffle. This year's Honoree is Inspiration Corporation. The kick-off meeting is on October 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:45. in the Multi-Purpose Room. The following Chair positions are still open:

Logistics

### **Parent Education**

Cynthia Patti spoke about the ISACS Phone Conference seminar planned for April 28<sup>th</sup>. The topic will be "Building School and Parent Relationships." More information will follow.

**Room Parents**

Sandy Bosca reminded the group that the first meeting is on September 11<sup>th</sup>

**Angel Families**

Bernadette Golitz and Kelly Waller explained that the event that was formerly “New Parent Welcome Party” is now called the “Angel Family Welcome Reception” and is scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup>. All SHS families are welcome and encouraged to come. It was noted that it is an adult only event.

**Gift Wrap**

Molly Shutt, Paula Belnap and Stacey Kaniewski explained a few changes to this year’s fundraising program. If families have left over wrap from previous years, they can donate them back to the Community Service program.

**Red and White Rally Family Party**

Anne Marie Cook, Elizabeth Beck and Donna Whitacre. The event is scheduled for October 21 and will be held on Loyola Campus at the Gentile Center. There will be games, food, climbing walls, music and lots of family activities. They are looking for volunteers for the event.

**Conclusion**

Claire O’Grady concluded the meeting by reminding the group that the next meeting will be on October 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 in the Multi Purpose Room. She also asked that anyone who was using the childcare services donate \$5.00 per child.

Submitted by

Sue Brodarick, Secretary