Parents of the Heart Meeting Minutes

September 8th, 2016 at 8:30 a.m.

1. Welcome Beth Kost, President

Welcomed back returning families and welcomed new families. POTH success relies on the parents so we’re happy to have you all here. POTH meets 1st Thursday of every month.

2. Prayer Nat Wilburn, Head of Schools

Reflected on Goal Two: Schools of the Sacred Heart commit themselves to educate to a deep respect for intellectual values.

3. Head of School Report Nat Wilburn, Head of Schools

1. Sacred Heart is celebrating 140 years in Chicago!
2. Enrollment: 709 students enrolled this year. 121 new students, 62 new families represented.
3. Faculty updates: Starting with a great faculty and staff this Fall. New assistants, key lead teacher changes over the summer. Welcomed Dan Gargano as the new Interim Middle School Division Head. Eric Simpson (Hardey Prep grad) is the new Athletic Director.
4. Classrooms and Campus additions: Top floor lower school lab, 3rd floor STEAM lab for project based learning, new turf field, new offices for student services.
5. Water was thoroughly tested this summer and no lead was found.
6. Saddened by the death of Wenche Haverkamp. Her memorial service was lovely and happy to announce that she’s the recipient of the 2016-2017 Goal Two Award. She will be awarded the award, posthumously, at L’Esprit in March.
7. SHS commission on goals educators and committee coming 11/13-11/16.
8. Capital Campaign – Goal is $9.7 million. To date we’ve raised $7.7 million so need to raise $2 million this year.
9. Introduced Dan Gargano and Eric Simpson to say a few words and talk about their goals this year in the Middle School and in Athletics

4. Get Acquainted game with SHS leadership team led by Cynthia Patti – Nat Wilburn, Sally Sharp, Lisa Zimmer, Eric Simpson, Dan Gargano and Mary Ann Ligon

4. BE INVOLVED – Parent Interests and Volunteer Opportunities

1. Community Service Mary Beth Hopp and Maria-Paz Salas

Partnering with parents makes it all possible. Goal is to serve, learn, reflect and grow.

1. Every Tuesday morning, the 7th and 8th graders volunteer offsite. Drivers are needed and parents at all grade levels are welcome to participate.
2. 3 upcoming events – 9/10 Misercordia Family Fest, 9/17 Alliance for the Great Lakes Annual Clean Up, 9/23 10,000 Villages artesian volunteering and modeling for mothers and daughters.
3. Sign up at POTH meetings or contact Mary Beth or Paz to volunteer
4. Annual Fund Maureen Gilligan

The annual fund is the bread and butter gift giving effort at SHS. $3,000 gap annually per student that needs to be closed. Funnels funds into programs, salaries, development opportunities, after programs, etc. Parents can get involved and make a difference starting with volunteering for the phone-a-thons on 9/27 and 10/5. Also make your pledge today.

1. Diversity Council Jennifer Pinto

Parent led council exploring all areas of diversity. Always welcome different perspectives.

1. International Night on 9/30 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Gym. Should have received an email with details about the event. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring a potluck dish reflecting your family’s heritage or favorite food. Committee members are needed to help plan and set up/transform the gym.
2. LGBTQ film and panel discussion on October 20th from 6:30-9:00 p.m.
3. Fine Arts Libby Behringer

A group of passionate parents who love the arts. Looking for volunteers to be part of their think tank on coming up with how the arts can link with curriculum. Examples of their events are Justice Day, Poetry Month and Gallery Night.

1. Room Parent Coordinator Beth Garino

There are a few room parents needed in 3rd, 4th and 5th grade if you’re interested. Meetings scheduled for 9/20 and 11/3.

1. Participation Michele Sparks

Encourages parents to sign up for involvement throughout the year. Signup sheet at POTH meetings for specific committees or just indicate you want to volunteer on an as needed basis.

1. In addition to the executive committee members above who gave their committee reports, Beth introduced the final member of the executive committee, Heather Shaffer, who is the secretary.
2. Admissions/PAN Judy Corrin, Jackie Bush, Betsy Zieger
3. Admissions: applications due by 12/12 for 2017-2018. Admissions coffees begin on 10/14. Need volunteers to help with registration, welcoming and answering questions.
4. Parents Ambassador Network (PAN): group of parents who love SHS and want to “love their school out loud.” 80% of families make a school decision based on word of mouth so we need to get the word out about how great our school is. First meeting is Tuesday, September 13th at 8:30 a.m.
5. PAAC Bart Huff

Eric Simpson, Athletic Director

The parent athletic advisory committee is the liaison between parents and the athletic department. Excited to work with new athletic director, Eric Simpson, this year. Encouraged everyone to go out and support the student-athletes when they compete.

1. Eric Simpson, the Athletic Director, announced there were 275 student athletes this Fall. 25 Fall coaches.
2. Athlete pickup this year is in the Kenmore parking lot due to the new turf field.

BE INFORMED

1. Technology Tips Sam Sinkhorn, Director of Communications
2. “Like” Sacred Heart Schools Chicago on Facebook. Social Media is great marketing material for the school.
3. Share your photos from school with Sam
4. Sign up for emergency text alerts in the parent portal. Only need to sign up once.
5. Add SHS website to device home screen (shows up as app icon on phone). Go to shschicago.org. Click on box with up arrow to add to home screen.

Paperless agendas and minutes will start at the next meeting. Agenda will be available the night before the meeting.

1. L’Esprit Katie Cherry, Catherine Denny, Mary Ann Doherty, Kelly Owens

Save the date for March 11th, 2017 at the Hilton Hotel Chicago. Biggest bi-annual fundraiser for the school. Need committee members.

Introduced the SHS Institutional Advancement Team: Tina Harris (our POTH liaison), Anne Tirpak, Alex Voight and Heather Yap.

The next POTH Meeting is on Thursday, October 6th, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. in the cafeteria and hosted by the 8th grade parents.