

SPS Home & School Association – General Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2018

27 parents in attendance, including Principal Amie Hale, Anthony Randazzo, Principal intern and members of the H&S Exec Board

Call to order and prayer by Tricia Dever, H&S President, at 7:00 pm

Review and approval of September 2018 meeting minutes. Courtney Dietrich made a motion to approve; Bridget Morrison seconded. All in favor; motion carries.

Visit from Dan Gravo, President of Stark County Catholic Schools

Dan Gravo (SPS parent), shared information about the two Catholic high schools, St. Thomas Aquinas & Central Catholic. Ryan Hill, Director of Enrollment & Kristie Cramer (SPS parent), Director of Marketing were also in attendance.

He explained that one board was formed for both high schools with the goal to be more efficient at the high school level. Father Jay Clarke is on the board along with three other parish priests.

This year, Holy Cross Academy was incorporated under the system as well. HCA is still an entity and Jackie Zufall is now VP of Elementary Catholic Schools. There is no longer an HCA board.

For the first time in many years, there was enrollment growth at both schools for the 2018/2019 school year. Nine SPS students went to the Catholic high schools this year.

Mr. Gravo gave many examples of investments in the schools:

- New LED lighting added to both schools. Improved learning environment & cost savings
- New security cameras added. Security audits performed over the summer.
- New track at Central; new bleachers at St. Thomas.
- 1:1 chrome books next year including freshman and sophomores; keep upon graduation

Enrollment – concerted effort last year to offer more scholarships. Many face-to-face meetings with parents. \$1.5M - \$2M awarded between the two schools.

Parent Q&A session:

Are there discounts for HCA students?

Yes, the HCA discount was reinstated this year. There are also multi-children discounts and an alumni discount.

Can a parent reach out to the high schools about sports?

Yes, but the parent must make first contact. SPS is not an official feeder to either high school. Reach out to Ryan Hill, Director of Enrollment.

How are the academics at the schools?

- St. Thomas & Central have the top two ACT scores in Stark County
- 100% graduation rate

- College Credit Plus (CCP) – get college credit in high school; 98% go to college; 91% get into first choice of college (vs. 50%+ average other schools).
- Transferology.com – website you can check to see what credits will transfer to college.
- Walsh offers courses just for our students; they aren't mixed in with college students.

Can the high schools have a combined sports team?

No; regulations do not allow

Are there special education resources provided?

Both schools have Intervention Specialists, Title I & Title II Specialists

Are there shadow days available for middle school students?

There will be designated shadow days. Parents can contact the school to setup shadow days as well.

There was a suggestion to have a Q&A night with higher grade parents.

Officer Reports

1. Principal Report - Mrs. Amie Hale

SchoolSafeID, the new visitor management system is in place, located in the front office. All visitors and volunteers should use this system. We'd like you to also sign out using this system.

Use it to sign in and out students for appointments, tardies, etc.

System was purchased with auxiliary funds.

The vestibule door in entry way is now locked all day.

We're updating the security system/card readers at doors & door locks to get campus buildings on one system (including the church)

Within the Home & School budget, there is a Principal Technology Budget available. Laptops have been purchased for all teachers.

New Promethian ActivPanels - went into three classrooms using auxiliary funds

Parent Teacher conferences will be held in November with registration using Option C.

Parents with multiple students will be allowed to register a day or two ahead of other families.

All Saints Day Mass coming up November 1st.

Mrs. Erica Quicci (current part-time Kindergarten aid) has accepted the new part-time auxiliary services tutor position. She will remain in her Kindergarten aid position as well.

Friday, 10/26/18 – C Building Halloween parties – starting in the gym at 1:15 pm with the costume parade.

November 9th – Fall Pep Rally

November 13th – Veteran’s Day Mass (note error on H&S calendar)

Mrs. Hale reviewed several upcoming events. Watch the school newsletter for more information.

Mr. Anthony Randazzo/Principal intern is finishing his internship this week at SPS and moving onto his secondary level internship next week. Mr. Randazzo was very complimentary of Mrs. Hale and our school.

2. President - Tricia Dever

Holy Cross Open House on November 2nd (at SPS); we’re going to form a tour committee

Grandparent’s Day coming up next week

The school window clings are installed and look beautiful! Thank you to Lara Kimbell and Adrienne Scamera for seeing this through.

3. Past President – Amy Ascani – no report

4. President Elect – Courtney Dietrich

All Classroom Reps have been filled – thank you!

5. Volunteer Chairs – Leyla Renner (Stacy Nunziato absent)

We still have openings for a few chair roles including the Teacher Christmas Luncheon

6. Auction Update – Tricia Dever

The auction is Saturday, November 17th

If you are in charge of a basket, please turn them into the office ASAP. Baskets will be assembled early November by the committee. You can just drop off the contents. Email Giorgia Remark will details of basket contents for the auction program. Need this information ASAP.

New Business

A parent asked about the A Building bathrooms and status of updates/remodeling. Tricia Dever explained this is planned for the final stages of the capital campaign. There is no guarantee this will be done.

Molly White – The 7th & 8th grade dance is coming up; \$5 per student.

Ski Club – 5th grade and up; \$220 fee; there is a maximum of 50 people allowed on the bus. Will open to 5th graders in a couple more weeks (sign up is by grade, starting with 8th grade). Ski Club is on Wednesday nights. She suggested buying helmets instead of renting them. Have to decide after first lesson whether the student will ski or snowboard going forward.

With no further business, Katy Pitcher made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29.

Next H&S General Membership Meeting: Thursday, November 8, 2018