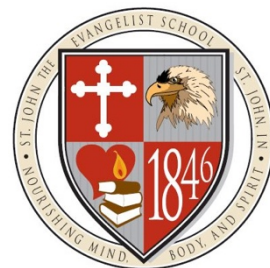


# Home & School Association

General Meeting Minutes  
August 17, 2022  
6:30 PM



- I. **Opening Prayer at 6:37.** In attendance were the HSA Board members Jeanne Lukac (President), Lisa Guzzo (Vice President), Heather DeJarlais (Treasurer and Music teacher) and Matt Fisher (Secretary), Katie Fredericksen (Principal), Dawn Czarnik (Event Coordinator), Jill Pierce, Kathy Hartman, Ashlyn Kneseck, MaryGrace Fagen, Candace Kil, Stephanie Degenais, Frank Mikesic, Elizabeth Sheeran, Melissa Villeneuve, Jennifer Langner, Valerie Vukojevic, Marina Zadre, Brittany Miller, Cheryl Hobby, Melissa Gould, Mary Skocic, Adra Breclaw-Csanyi, Lauren Suster, Molly Miller, Melisa Herrera, Dana Batz, Holly Busse, Meaghan Schultz, Ashley Bajarck, Angela Dudak, Kaitlyn Balamut, Kirsten Betkowski, Katie Betkowski, Nicolette Wehling, Kyoko Hahn, Megan Tilton, Kristen Reese, Jen Dorn, Edyta Bobak, Lanetti Carattini, Lisette Renta-Bermudez.

## II. HSA Mission and Meeting Objectives

Ms. Lukac: The objectives of the Association shall be:

1. To promote open communication, good will and cooperation between and among parents, faculty, administration, and the parish of St. John the Evangelist;
2. To provide parents and teachers with information to aid in all aspects of education, growth and development;
3. To advance Catholic education and the welfare of all the school children of the parish; and
4. To generate support for St. John the Evangelist School from parents, parishioners and the community by:
  - (a) Celebrating milestones and having fun at special events
  - (b) Showing appreciation for teachers/staff and providing volunteer staffing for school programs/activities
  - (c) Enriching students' experience at St. John the Evangelist School
  - (d) Raising funds for the on-going and special needs of the school.

For example, the HSA funded classroom remodeling over the Summer for \$45,000 as a special need.

\*The Principal, HSA board members and meeting participants each took a moment to introduce themselves.

## III. 5K Recap

Ms. DeJarlais: Last confirmed we've raised a little over \$9,000 but the total is likely to be more as all receipts are collected and posted. Most of the proceeds are expected to go to science lab and enrichment class offerings to middle schooler's (art, robotics, health and wellness, and strings).

Ms. Fredericksen discussed that the attendance was good and she looks forward to

continuing to build out the event each year to not only raise money for HSA but use it as a welcome and 1-stop shop for school information and volunteer sign-ups.

Discussion among meeting participants about the potential for opening the school buildings during the 5-K in the future to allow students to familiarize themselves with classrooms and teachers. Ms. Fredericksen mentioned this was the theme similar to what students do at the first day of school anyway but would consider the suggestion next year.

#### **IV. Chairperson and Room Parent sign-up 2022-23**

##### **a. Room Parents**

Ms. Lukac: Jill Pierce is room parent coordinator and it sounds like she has gotten great responses so far.

Ms. Pierce: Most are filled except for Pre-3 and one of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Some of the party coordinator slots are open among the various grades but overall it seems like we are getting good cooperation and response. We may not even need a party coordinator at all levels, especially middle school.

Ms. Lukac further described that middle schoolers will likely combine their party themes primarily around food and free time as fewer planned activities are needed for those age groups.

Ms. Guzzo: Thanks everyone for volunteering, we don't take it for granted and have struggled to get people signed up in previous years.

##### **b. Mother-Son Event**

Ms. Lukac: This is an event we use to have but it was cancelled in recent years for COVID and we are considering bringing it back. We are looking for a coordinator to plan something in the Fall, if not this year, hopefully next year.

Ms. Guzzo: If anyone has any good Fall-themed ideas it would be great. Spring activities, such as baseball games have been rained out in the past.

##### **c. Grandparents' Day**

Ms. Lukac: Grandparents' day is another event that had fallen off over the past few years and we'd like to explore bringing it back again.

Ms. Fredericksen described that they are in the process of collecting input from the faculty given that the event generally takes up school curriculum time.

Question from participant: Can a special person fill in lieu of a grandparent?

Ms. Guzzo: Yes, we've done that in earlier years also.

##### **d. Field Day**

Ms. Lukac: Last year was a scramble but it turned out great. Stephanie [Bracken] did a great job. If anyone has the ambition to take this on, now is the time, as we have plenty of time to think about it and plan it out.

Ms. Pierce offered to be a consultant to the new Field Day chairperson.

## V. Upcoming Events

### a. **St. John Oktoberfest** (September 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>)

You are allowed to earn 3 hours. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities and sign-up links are ready to go on the website.

Ms. Czarnik clarified that it was 3 hours per family.

Ms. Frederickson clarified that this is a parish event rather than a school event. This event draws volunteers from the parish as well and this should be considered when making decisions and prioritizing volunteer hours for people with children in the school (such as Field Day, etc.).

Meeting participants agreed and seconded that it hasn't been clear in the past that the Summer Fest and Oktoberfest events are parish events rather than school events. The school events would probably get better responses for volunteers if this point were more clearly.

Ms. Lukac mentioned that our events separate from the parish include 5K, Race for Education and Spring Fling.

### b. **Race For Education** (October 20th)

Ms. Lukac: Kids do laps around the school and all that is asked is for financial sponsors of families and friends. All of the funds raised are HSA and can be used for our students benefit. Last year we were able to fund some of the classroom remodels and there are plenty of other needs. The bathrooms upstairs are in need of remodeling.

Meeting participant: Is there a long-term plan in place to make large additions, such as a cafeteria?

Members of the HSA board and Ms. Fredericksen discussed that larger long-term capital projects would not be a HSA item but a capital addition/fund from the parish. Generally, all funds raised by the HSA during the year are fully expended.

Meeting participant: Can we start a separate foundation to fund bigger projects?

Ms. Fredericksen: Yes, but that would be totally separate and apart from HSA.

### c. **All Saints Day**

This is an event just for fun for the kids. Formerly, the classrooms would also have a Halloween party but it was decided a couple years ago to phase that part out. The All Saints Day event would allow kids to dress up as their favorite Saint.

### d. **Book Fair**

Topic adjourned to a future meeting.

## VI. Financial Update

Ms. DeJarlais: If anyone has reimbursements for parties or check requests, send

pictures of them to the SJE Treasurer email (link on website) rather than send them to the school with child to hand off. Or if you do send them with child, place in an envelope and make sure it says HSA Treasurer on it.

Meeting participant: Why not just have the room parents ask for donations?

Ms. DeJarlais: You can do that. It's up to the room parent and party planner, you will usually hear from them in advance of the various parties.

Ms. Lukac read an update from Jamie McGarry, a SJE school parent and chairperson for the Parent Assisted Salary Supplement ("P.A.S.S.") program: "This program was announced last year as a way for our families to give back to our amazing school staff. The reason this program is so important is because the average salary for a Catholic school teacher is around \$38,000 while the Lake Central Public-School teacher salaries are closer to \$58,000—a huge and shocking disparity, especially with today's economy.

The P.A.S.S. program replaces the traditional Christmas and end-of-year gifting, by providing us with a more modern and meaningful way to gift and show appreciation to our school staff. You can donate at any point during the school year—once, twice or multiple times. The HSA pays out 100% of the donations two times a year (once in December and once in May) among the staff.

This program is 100% optional and your donations are 100% tax-deductible and go directly to the school's staff. There is a year-round, online giving option: <https://GIVEPASS.givesmart.com> or you can send checks made out to SJE School or cash into school in an envelope marked for Mrs. DeJarlais, who is handling collections for the HSA. For reference, last year's donations ranged from \$25-2,500 per family.

2021 Fall distribution totaled \$12,200 from about 70 families (\$11,865 was raised and the HSA covered the remainder). We distributed \$400 to each teacher and \$200 to each staff member.

2022 Spring collection totaled \$42,684.91. Dawn Czarnik received a percentage of that from Spring Fling fundraising. We distributed \$1k to each of our staff members.

A total of \$54,549.91 was raised for the P.A.S.S. program last year. This is an amazing number that we hope to beat that this year!"

All of the info, including the link is included on the website and will be communicated at Back-To-School night.

## **VII. Open Discussion**

HSA participant: I know that needs to be addressed, its imperative that our children need to be safe. Last year, I worked Field Day. Doors were open, lots of chaos and I was able to enter and re-enter the school five times. We need to be safe and in light of the mass shootings we keep having how are we going to address this? We need to be mindful and have protocols. As a parent, I am willing to volunteer to watch the doors during events and I'm sure other parents would too.

Ms. Fredericksen described that we have several parents that are in law enforcement and were volunteers at certain events. We can continue to encourage their participation at events and donate their time strictly as security. Race For Education has an

arrangement in place with the town to have police presence all around the event.

Ms. Guzzo thanked the participant for bringing it up for discussion and agreed a continued focus on security as an area to consider special plans as needed depending on the event.

Meeting participant: Can you give a break-down on enrollment?

Ms. Fredericksen: It ebbs and flows by year, K is 36, 1<sup>st</sup> grade is 47, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade 32, 3<sup>rd</sup> 44, 4<sup>th</sup> is 34 and so on. I'm told by our teachers that have been around a while that it's always been an up and down pattern.

Meeting participant: Is there a plan to keep up with the growth? Can someone explain at Back to School night? What types of resources do we have for kids that are struggling or certain grade levels that need more aids if their classes are getting too large?

Other participants discussed that there are already a lot of communication from teachers to parents if certain children are falling behind or through the cracks. Specific information about class room aids and resources can be obtained from teachers.

#### **VIII. Closing Prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:01pm**