

PSO Meeting Minutes

11/15/2024

In attendance: Catherine Barber, Vy Collett, Angie Fowler, Laura Haskovec, Tracey Ledoux, Nicole Luijer, Candace McCaddon, Jamie Middleton, Trey Palmer, Hailey Panneton, Lyndsey Ray, Karine Schepers-Cheng, Ken Stemec, Mary Tysor, Devin Weiss

- Prayer (8:15 am) - Mary
- Welcome and reading of mission - Karine
- Opening remarks - Karine
 - Globe updates
 - Great communication about events and activities from committee chairs in the recent Globe!
 - Thanks to all who are volunteering for and participating in PSO events.
 - Please be sure to read the Globe to stay informed about opportunities.
 - Fall Fest debrief
 - The event was well-attended and fun!
 - We received good feedback on the activities (e.g., face painting, bubbles, photos).
 - Photo backdrop will be available for next year's event.
 - Please submit receipts if you have any relevant Fall Fest expenses.
 - Suggestions:
 - More lemonade (and, to a lesser extent, water) is needed next year.
 - Move the food tables to the shadier area of the walkway.
 - We might need a first aid station or at least a kit handy.
 - Sociables signup
 - This year, there were the same number of sociables as last year (12-13), with a trend toward more adult-only events.
 - Ticket sales have been moderately successful.
 - Some events still have available tickets, which can be purchased online.
 - Note that sociables are currently not primarily a fundraiser but are meant to build community.
 - Ideas for the future:
 - Consider conducting a survey to gauge interest in various themes, willingness to host, barriers to hosting, etc.
 - It's fine to have fewer parties, based on community interest.
 - Consider reinforcing the message that the purpose is to have fun and build community; at the same time, although sociables are not a primary fundraiser, the ticket cost is to support the school.
 - Personal "asks" tend to be the most successful method for recruiting hosts.
- Treasurer's report - Candace
 - Budget for the year: \$4000

- Expenditures to date: \$985.91
- Notes for future budget:
 - Increase Friends of the Arts budget to cover poinsettias at the Christmas concert.
- Old business
 - Gala: things are moving along well!
 - Table sponsorship and underwriting chairs have been successful in beginning to obtain sponsors.
 - Room-organized baskets are coming together.
 - Gala chairs are working on catering, creating t-shirts, and preparing invitations.
 - Gala website is up and running: <https://stcathmont.org/gala>
 - Deadline for table sponsorship/event underwriting for program recognition is **January 10**.
- New business
 - SCM on a Whim - chair needed; Trey will be available to support the new chair.
 - Job requires a balance of diplomacy and firmness.
 - Web access via laptop/desktop is needed, but no technical knowledge is required.
 - Chair sends an annual email via Globe at the beginning of the academic year and receives email addresses from administration to add to the listserv.
 - If interested, please send an email to Karine (psso@stcathmont.org).
 - Note that a separate SCM on a Whim alumni group (scmonawhimalumni) and Facebook page for alumni are managed by Mary Tysor.
 - Parent portal
 - This is an amazing treasure trove of resources for SCM parents in general and for PSO chairs/volunteers.
 - Karine will send an email recapping fall events and previewing spring events in the new year. This email will also include information on the parent portal.
- PSO Committee reports
 - Friends of the Library/Atrium/Garden (Karine)
 - **December 6:** Book Fair and Christmas Concert
 - Friends of the Garden and 4-H students are going to make natural garlands and facilitate decorations.
 - Donation opportunities:
 - More pre-lit Christmas trees in good condition are needed this year. If you have one to loan, please sign up on the Book Fair/Christmas Concert Signup Genius.
 - If you want to donate poinsettias, please sign up.
 - Works of Mercy - Casa de Esperanza (Mary)
 - Timeline:

- **November 20:** PJ tree with tags will be set up in the Welcome Center.
 - **December 6:** Final day that tags may be available.
 - **December 10:** Hard deadline for PJ/socks/underwear drop-off.
- Reminders:
 - There are many opportunities to come in and get a tag.
 - If all the tags are taken, there are other items that can be donated.
- Friends of Athletics (Ken)
 - Volleyball and soccer went very well. Soccer was undefeated in the main season and won 2nd place in the final game.
 - Basketball is underway; games start soon.
- Friends of Garden (Devin)
 - **November 22:** Last gardening day, after drop-off.
 - **December 4:** Creation of cranberry garlands.
- Friends of the Atrium (Mary)
 - **November 20:** Rosary after drop-off.
- Book Club (Hailey)
 - **November 22:** Meeting after drop-off.
 - The book is "Brainstorm," by Daniel Siegel.
- Adjournment (9:50) - Karine

Minutes submitted by Catherine Barber, PSO Secretary