



NOTRE DAME

Preparatory High School

PARENT TEACHER STUDENT ORGANIZATION

General Meeting

March 25, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m. Fifteen people were in attendance. Copies of the agenda and mission statement were distributed.

- I. Opening Prayer and Mission Statement – Betty Fritcke and Katherine Fritcke
 - Student Government Executive Board Religious Coordinator, Katherine Fritcke, opened the meeting with a prayer and Betty Fritcke, PTSO president, invited all present to read the mission statement.
- II. President's Report – Betty Fritcke
 - Betty gave a brief introduction about the purpose of the PTSO and the topics on this evening's agenda.
- III. Christian Service Update
 - Brenda Beers, Student Activities Director, representing Sr. Yolanda Mendoza, reinforced the final May 1 due date for Christian Service hours. April 20, earlier than other students, is the final due date for students who signed contracts. She stressed the consequences of missing these dates, which include a student not being allowed to take exams and seniors being restricted from participating in the graduation ceremony. Friday, March 27, is the due date for the third quarter installment of service hours. Suggestions were offered from students in response to a question regarding how to satisfy the requirement that 25% of service hours be earned at your church.
 - Flyers and information were made available regarding the AFS student exchange program. A list of students looking for host families was shared. Notre Dame presently has one AFS student.
- IV. Significance of Student Government
 - Betty Fritcke gave a brief introduction about the importance of involvement in student government at Notre Dame Preparatory. A panel, made up of students, shared their experiences and opinions on the value of being involved in decision-making for their classes and the school. Panel members:

1. Kate Murphy – Senior Class Religious Coordinator. Kate stated that she loved STUGO (Student Government) and regretted waiting until her senior year to run for office. She found value in the experience through expanding her group of friends and learning many valuable leadership skills that she believes she will use in the future.
2. Ashley Montag - Student Government Executive Board President. Ashley became involved in STUGO in her freshman year and progressively moved up in positions over her four years. Recently, Executive Board officers attended a state convention for Student Government members from all over Arizona. It was a great experience and they returned to Notre Dame and provided training for students interested in running for office. Ashley is impressed by the passion that students bring to their positions in student government.
3. Madison Wetter – President of the Junior Class. Madison loves STUGO and is running for President of Student Government for the 2009-2010 SY. He stated that the elections are full of good competition. He believes that a successful campaign includes knowing the class, the people, and the school, and that it is important to adapt to instill spirit in the school.
4. Emily Fritcke – Sophomore Class Religious Coordinator. Emily addressed the importance of ministry in STUGO. Through ministry, it is possible to increase the involvement of students in religion. Her involvement in student government has been a great experience. Through the Liturgy Committee, they have been able to “extend the hand of leadership” to the entire student body. In her position, she has met many great and passionate people.

In response to questions regarding what each class’ student leadership does and the time commitment, the students responded –

- The Freshman Class is responsible for a Yearbook Signing Party at the end of the year
- The Sophomore Class organizes Field Day for the entire school in the spring
- The Junior Class is responsible for planning the Prom
- The Senior Class plans Homecoming and, this year, “Mr. Notre Dame”
- Other activities they are responsible for include spirit rallies, spirit week and spirit dress days
- The commitment requires: a time commitment that varies based on specific activities, a willingness to be involved, and students involved in other activities can share responsibilities based on other officer’s availability.
- Elections for the Executive Board are Thursday, April 4, and campaign posters are posted around campus. Class officers’ election date is May 1.

- There are leadership retreats scheduled in the summer that officers are required to attend and a leadership class during the school year.

V. “All About Notre Dame” – Principal David Gonsalves

David Gonsalves addressed questions submitted to the PTSSO email.

1. Apparel Program – NDP is accepting bids for a single supplier for all of NDP’s sport and class apparel. Through this effort they are looking to find the best price and quality.
2. Used Book Sales – Based on the success of used uniform sales, it was suggested a similar program be developed for books. A program was attempted in the past and problems occurred with storage and changes in editions. The staff can re-look at another possible program with the Mother’s Guild’s help.
3. Cost of Drug Testing – A parent expressed concern regarding the cost of excessive testing of students. The annual cost of drug testing at NDP is approximately \$30,000 or \$22/test. Most students are only tested once in the random testing program. Students can also be tested randomly a second time or for cause.

VI. “State of the School Address” – Principal David Gonsalves

- Notre Dame has made tremendous strides since its beginning, including an increase in students, faculty, curriculum, and facilities
- This growth has been through the hard work of many people, including the efforts of the Mothers’ Guild and Booster Club, who have exhibited an “all for one and one for all attitude that is required for success. The Mother’s Guild and Booster Club are responsible for providing the school with library books, a school bus, sports field, and other contributions to the successful operation of the school.
- Notre Dame has expanded from its first enrollment of 227 to the present 975 students and is sending our graduates to some of the finest colleges in the country.
- Initially, Notre Dame was an alternative choice for students, but after only two years of operation became the number one choice for our feeder schools. This growth and development came through the hard work of our students and teachers.
- The first school year, bills for \$200,000 began to arrive monthly, for the \$20MM bond and \$3.0MM Diocesan construction loan. A capital campaign was initiated to retire the debt. With two years to go on the campaign, the goal was reached and the campaign was discontinued.
- NDP Tuition – the 2009-2010 tuition is an approximate increase over 2008-2009. It was hoped that no increase would be needed, but the minor increase was required to cover teacher step increases, benefits,

and utilities. All salaries are frozen, with the exception of step increases based on years' service.

- Finances - due to increased enrollment after the original budget projections, NDP is getting by, even though fund-raising is down \$120,000 because the Capital Campaign is okay and the Annual Fund was up \$50,000.
- 2009-2010 Budget – NDP spends \$3.0MM/year to service our debt, interest, and principle, with two more years to pay off the Diocese, leaving \$15MM due on the Bond. To meet the budget projections:
 - Budget is based on 915 students
 - All budget figures are frozen
 - Freeze personnel
 - Projected decrease in expenditures
 - Projected decrease in fund-raising revenue
- 2009-2010 Enrolment – Presently NDP has 725 paid registration students, including 198 incoming freshman. Approximately 200 upper classmen have not re-registered at this point, 59 are juniors. There were 271 freshmen in 2008-2009, 198 have re-registered. Low re-registrations are a concern, based on the economy.
 - The present financial budget will be presented to the Diocese in April and re-submitted in July.
- Capital Campaign 2009-2010 Goal – the original goal of \$850,000 for the 2009-2010 school Year has been dropped to \$400,000
 - Pledges due in 2009-2010 are \$525,000
 - Pledges still remaining due for 2008-2009 are \$250,000
- Budget
 - The budget submitted is very conservative
 - Sports teams, which usually replace uniforms every four years, will only get new uniforms if absolutely necessary
 - Capital expenditures have been used to: upgrade security cameras, improve internet connectivity, purchase smart boards and portable computer labs, and upgrade the sports field.
- Looking to the Future – a Campus Design Committee is working on a 20-year plan. Potential components include:
 - Classrooms, a priority, including ten science classrooms
 - Replacing many existing buildings with, multi-story buildings
 - An all-purpose athletic field
 - Additional parking
 - Fine Arts building
- Great strides have been made to-date through the generosity of parents and parent groups
- Cafeteria – similar to the consolidation of NDP's printing and apparel needs, the school is looking to consolidate their food needs. This would include addressing all food service needs and requesting bids for a

food manager. Consideration will be given to long-term relationships we presently have in place.

- Questions – Mr. Gonsalves responded to several questions
 1. Has NDP considered using another uniform company besides Dennis and did they consider Collette, used by Rancho Solano Mr. G.: NDP did look at other providers prior to choosing Dennis, but some did not supply entire uniforms. We have presently a 3-year contract with Dennis. The Collette Company will be added to companies to review during the next bid period. Next year incoming freshman girls will be required to wear skorts with Saint's logo on the hem. Upper-class female students will be allowed to wear the existing uniform skirt. Long-sleeve polo shirts will be added to the shirt options.
 2. What is the targeted student body number in the 20-year plan? Mr. G: We are targeting 1,500 students.
 3. Will the 20-year plan remain on the existing property? Mr. G: Yes. The first priority will be 10 science classrooms.
- Mr. Gonsalves commended the Student Government for their involvement in many aspects of the school. They provide suggestions to the Principal and sound out ideas and proposals from the students prior to making recommendations.

Betty thanked all for coming and announced that the next meeting will be May 13, 2009. This meeting will focus on student successes and faculty achievements.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by,

Betty Fritcke for Ellen Murphy
Secretary