



NOTRE DAME

Preparatory High School

PARENT TEACHER STUDENT ORGANIZATION

General Meeting

October 22, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. Approximately 20 people were in attendance. All were given copies of the agenda and mission statement.

I. Opening Prayer and Mission Statement – Betty Fritcke

- Betty Fritcke, president, read the opening prayer and stated that the mission of the PTSO is the same as that of the school and invited all present to read the mission statement with her.

II. President's Report – Betty Fritcke

- Betty gave a brief introduction about the purpose of the PTSO and the topics on the agenda for this evening's meeting.

III. Upcoming Events

A. Golf Tournament – Tony Montgomery reported that the Tournament organized by the Booster Club is the largest fundraiser for athletic programs at NDP, and has raised approximately \$700,000 over the last six years. This year it will be held on December 1 at Troon North. Women, men, teachers, and students are invited to play. At various tees, students from the NDP athletic teams help golfers tee off, if they desire. The Golf team uses clubs; the Hockey team uses hockey sticks; the Baseball team uses bats. Funds that are raised from this event filter to every sport at NDP. There are various sponsorship levels available. Tony encouraged everyone to attend, Entry forms are on the NDP Booster Club website.

B. Homecoming Events – Student Government representatives, Ashley Montag, Sara Schaefer, Sara Martin and Megan Wells reported on various activities taking place Homecoming Week, entitled "Haunted Homecoming 2008." Student Government representatives are very excited and hope to generate a lot of enthusiasm this year for homecoming. Activities are held during school at breaks and after school, so that students and families can participate. NDP alumni will be selling t-shirts at school all week.

1. Monday night – Freshmen and JV Volleyball games
2. Tuesday night – Powder Puff Football games with food provided by the Booster Club.
3. Wednesday night – "Drive-in" movie night held after the freshmen football game. "The Nightmare before Christmas" will be shown.

4. Thursday night - NDP Homecoming Pep Rally after the volleyball games. There will be Cheer and Pom performances, a car smash, s'mores, and NDP's Fire in the Sky.
5. Friday night - Haunted Homecoming Tailgate and Spookfest at SCC before the varsity football game. Dinner tickets are \$8.00 each and can be reserved by contacting Lorin Marchese at lmarchese@notredamepreparatory.org. The Homecoming King and Queen will be announced. Fans are asked to wear black.
6. Saturday night - Monster Mash Homecoming Dance for from 7:30 – 10:30 p.m. in the gym for all students. Tickets are \$10 each. Dress is semi-formal; costumes are not allowed.

Families will be receiving details about all homecoming activities online in the special bulletin of the *Mind, Body, and Soul*.

IV. Academic Departments

A. Fine Arts – Rebecca Strolc, department chair, shared information about the faculty and curriculum of the Fine Arts Department at NDP. There are nine teachers: three teach full-time, and six teach one to three classes apiece. Many of the teachers are performers in various specialties of fine arts. Twenty-eight classes are offered ranging from Digital Photography to Pottery. The Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLR) of reverence, respect and responsibility are integrated into the curricula as much as possible. Dance students may be asked to dance at liturgies. Respect is incorporated in how students constructively criticize others' work. The goal of the Fine Arts Department is to allow students to discover their own talents. The State of Arizona requires one year (two semesters) of Fine Arts. Ms. Strolc emphasized that public universities in California require two semester classes of Fine Arts be in the same field, such as Digital Photography I and II. That requirement is an issue for students applying to those universities.

B. Math – Fr. Phil Evanstock, department chair, distributed a flow chart concerning placement of students in the levels of math at NDP. All students are given a Placement Test in the spring of their 8th grade year. Depending on the outcome of their tests, students are placed in a track of math classes; however, students who want to challenge themselves are encouraged to try the more difficult classes. The emphasis in the department is on flexibility. "Persistence and determination will override personal aptitude." Fr. Phil explained that if students have deficiencies in math, they are still given the opportunity with the department's curricula to accomplish the four-year math requirement of a college preparatory school. Students whose placement test results were beyond Algebra and Geometry can start in Algebra 2 as freshmen. Competition among students is fostered at different levels. There are state and national math competitions, and students can join the Math Club, Mu Alpha Theta. All

these programs develop students' logical and deductive reasoning skills. Writing and research is also required in some math classes, covering various topics about math, including its application in juggling and polling, and what mathematicians around the United States are currently studying. The goal of the Math department is to broaden students' perspective of math beyond problem solving to the realization that math is pervasive in all aspects of life.

C. Theology – Barbara Stanley, department chair, highlighted the education and background of the eight teachers in the Theology department. Combined they have fifty years of teaching and fourteen degrees. Ms. Stanley shared that the faculty is passionate about the need for theology to go from the “head to the heart.” As teachers they try to journey with the students, who as teens are at the point of searching for faith. Students have grown from learning about faith at home and community to trying to understand how faith is a personal relationship with God. Next year the department will begin its transition of the curriculum to follow the new guidelines from the USCCB (United States Council of Catholic Bishops). Ms. Stanley is a part of a group commissioned by Bishop Olmstead to adapt the new guidelines for the diocese.

V. Fundraising vs. “Funraising” – All parents pay tuition, so why are there various fundraisers and where does the money go?

Panel: Brenda Beers (Activities Director), Juliana Brutsche (Mothers' Guild), Sr. Yolanda Mendoza (Campus Minister), Tony Montgomery (Booster Club), Carolyn Rock (Director of Development.)

A. Carolyn Rock – Development Department.

Carolyn explained the differences in the funding sources for NDP. Public schools receive their funding from bonds and taxes. NDP, being affiliated with the Catholic Church, is a 501c3 tax exempt institution and cannot receive funds from the state. The faculty and everything on campus is purchased through tuition and fundraisers.

The Development Department is responsible for public relations, special events and raising funds for NDP. Carolyn distributed a document of all fundraisers, their purposes and results. **(Please see the attachment with these minutes.)** She further explained the difference between the fundraisers and the community builders or “funraisers.” The events, such as the Gala, the Communion Breakfast, and the Fashion Show are meant to build community and not to raise funds.

There are three main fundraisers on campus:

1. Annual Fund – this year titled “Strength in Numbers”

2. Golf Tournament and Booster Club Membership dues
3. Auction and Mothers' Guild Membership dues

Other fundraisers are

- Capital Campaign
- Mercedes Benz Raffle
- CTODP (Catholic Tuition Organization Diocese of Phoenix)
- Endowment

The Capital Campaign, which was completed last year due to the generosity of the first families at NDP, and paid for the construction loan of \$14.6 million for the new campus. The Mercedes Benz raffle, part of the Gala, provided funds for the first three years to the capital campaign, and to the building fund in 2007. CTODP reduces the amount taxpayers pay to the state when they contribute to Catholic schools, whether they file individually or jointly. The Endowment amount is currently small because we are such a new school. Funds for student financial aid come from the CTODP and eventually the Endowment as it grows.

Carolyn ended by emphasizing that major foundations look at how many families are supporting the school. If a high percentage of families support fundraisers and annual funds, then foundations are more apt to give to the school.

B. Juliana Brutsche – Mothers' Guild

Since 2001, the Mothers' Guild has been supporting the school through its many volunteer efforts, namely hosting staff Christmas Dinners and monthly staff appreciation gifts. Each year the Auction has contributed \$150,000 to the annual fund. Some unbudgeted items in the past that Mothers' Guild has provided for are library books, mobile computer labs, scholarships for students, endowment funding, partial funding of a bus, and smart boards. Membership dues are needed to help put on many of the activities that directly support the school. There actually are more "funraising" than fundraising events hosted by Mothers' Guild.

C. Brenda Beers – Student Activities Director

Student groups who want to raise money for their groups are required to ask permission from the Student Government Association. Money is raised primarily through Jean Days on campus, when students pay \$3 to wear jeans. The Junior Class has to make more money because it is responsible for hosting the Junior/Senior Prom. Student Government tries to make sure all groups have opportunities to earn money.

D. Tony Montgomery – Booster Club

Fundraisers raise funds, but they are also community builders. We as parents get tremendous value for the cost of attending these events. We are all volunteers, and we are blessed to be here.

E. Sr. Yolanda Mendoza – Campus Minister

Sister is asked repeatedly by many very worthwhile organizations to raise money on campus for their organizations. We have to limit the fundraisers we have, but we do need as Catholic Christians to help others. When St. Catherine's Elementary School was flooded at the beginning of the school year, Notre Dame used the money raised from a Jeans Day to send to the school.

Sister likes to call the Communion Breakfast a "faithraiser." The event begins with Mass and concludes with breakfast and a speaker. The speakers share their volunteer efforts with the attendees so that students are aware that there will always be people that serve and people that need to be served.

VI. David Gonsalves - *"All About Notre Dame"*

- It is truly unfortunate more people are not here at this PTSO meeting. So much is going on at school. We have a very effective Student Government Association, our teachers are passionate about their subjects, our Development Department works tirelessly to promote NDP, and parent groups are supporting the school's mission. More parents at Notre Dame Prep should hear the information that is shared at these PTSO meetings.
- There are always worthwhile needs of student and other groups who would like to have fundraisers, but we have to limit them, because parents would be constantly asked for money.
- The wait has been frustrating, but the portables are almost ready. There will be a meeting next week with school officials and the City of Scottsdale to finalize the requirements for opening the portables.
- The campus is still being monitored by security cameras, but the system will soon go wireless with 37 or 38 cameras that will cover more of the campus.
- The traffic situation has been addressed by the City of Scottsdale Transportation Engineers. They will require the school to prohibit parallel parking on the street in front of the administration offices to the cafeteria from 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. Long-range planning includes roundabouts on the street and another school exit near the baseball field. We are trying to work with the homeowners nearby who are greatly

impacted by the school traffic. We might train some of our own staff as auxiliary police to help with traffic control. We cannot afford to hire police to direct traffic.

- Growth – The school's needs are growing as the population grows. Technology needs a person to help the Technology Director. A comment from a one of our volunteers is that the Guidance Office is in need of more offices. We have run out of space. We need more room and more offices all over our campus. We have begun planning for the future. A committee has been established to work on a 15-year plan for the campus.

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

Submitted by,

Ellen Murphy