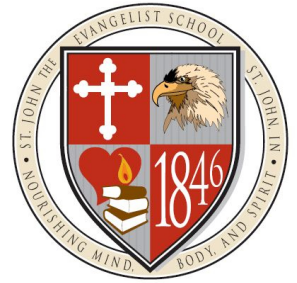


# Home & School Association

Meeting Minutes  
January 17, 2024  
6:30 PM



## I. Opening Prayer

Ms. Lowe began the meeting at 6:35PM with an opening prayer. The HSA Board and meeting attendees made introductions. ATTENDEES: Megan Lowe (President), Stephanie Bracken (Vice President), Heather DeJarlais (Treasurer), Matt Fisher (Secretary), Katie Fredericksen (Principal), Yesenia Brambila, Angela Lisak, Katie Betkowski, Sylvia Ponnezhan, Lisa Guzzo, Michelle Hvens, Jen Emerson, Jeanne Lukac, Christina Topoll, Frank Mikesic, Ashlyn Kneseck, Suzanne Bazarko, Larry Maginot, and Taylor Nagel.

## II. Race for Education Update

Ms. Lowe reported that modest donations have continued to come in despite the event having occurred last Fall. All donation cards are welcome and appreciated. Ms. Dejarlais reported we had just under \$50,000 collected from this year's event.

## III. PASS

Ms. DeJarlais reported that we collected \$35,000. All teachers and aids were very appreciative of the support. Ms. Lowe re-iterated the cash donations being so useful for the teachers at that time of year. We are looking for interesting and fun ways to raise PASS money in the Spring.

## IV. Wine & Craft Beer Tasting (Non-HSA)

- Sponsored by Education Foundation (\$40 online or \$50 at-door)
- Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>; 7-10PM (SJE Gym)
- <https://runsignup.com/TicketEvent/SJE2024>

Ms. Fredericksen mentioned the event is being sponsored by the Education Foundation Wine & Beer, Trivia Night and a 5K. We will have a raffle and it should be a fun night for a great cause.

## V. Catholic Schools Week 2024 (Heather DeJarlais)

- Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>

Monday we'll have a prayer service in the gym and buddy projects. Tuesday we will be celebrating catholic school students, encourage no homework and wearing PJ's, playing games. Wednesday we'll have Minute to Win It games and wear spirit wear. Thursday is celebrating vocations (dress as future career) w special guests to address students in gym about various careers. Friday pizza and ice cream lunch for all. We need volunteers to pick up pizzas on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will probably need 2 or 3 volunteers to pick up by 11AM. Contact Megan or Heather.

## VI. Daddy Daughter Dance (Stephanie Bracken)

- Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>; 6-9PM at Halls of St. George

This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year Stephanie will run it and the event has continued to grow and require larger venues. The invitations go to both SJE students and RE students. We are going to have a photo booth instead of a craft table. This event is break-even that does not generate additional funds to HSA. The goal is for HSA to organize a special experience for the girls and their fathers with costs covered by the ticket price.

## VII. Book Fair (Brittany Miller & Jill Pierce)

- Tentative Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>

10-12PM Sunday hours will be an opportunity for both students and families of the parish to attend. Teachers are volunteering to take students during school days Tuesday and Wednesday. All volunteer slots are full for this event. Please double-check your time slot if you volunteered. We are looking forward to it being a great success. The book vendor is the same as last year and very easy to work with that provides appropriate catholic children book and product offerings.

## VIII. School Spirit Day/Treat Cart!

- Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>
- Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>

Our treat cart has been hugely successful for student council raising money. More than half of students are excited to get treats on that day (limited to 1). Thank you for Walmart donations. If you shopped for us,

bring receipt get a reimbursement form from Heather. Teachers love it too. The HSA service hour page has opportunities for volunteers to run treat carts on those mornings. The fruit has been selling out first!

**IX. Valentine's Day LS Parties & MS Fun Lunch (Jen Emerson & Jill Pierce)**

- Friday, Feb 9<sup>th</sup>

Avgo hot dogs are for middle school fun lunch. Parents will receive notice for anything additional needed for lunch that day. There is also a taco/nacho bar that is very popular. Jill Piece sent out request for volunteers to help with the classroom parties and games. If you are volunteering/coming in, you will need to be current on VIRTUS training. Parents be sure to sign up in advance if you are coming.

**X. Lent (Katie Fredericksen)**

Valentine's Day is also Ash Wednesday. We sell t-shirts and give proceeds to Catholic Charities (vs. Thanksgiving and Xmas food drives, we give 20 boxes of food). Catholic Charities is so appreciative of both our food drives and Lenten tee shirt proceeds cash donations. Buy a shirt no later than January 26<sup>th</sup> if you want them by Ash Wednesday. We will pick them up and distribute them. There are both long sleeve (<https://teepartystudio.com/product/sje-lent-long-sleeve-tee/>) and short sleeve (<https://teepartystudio.com/product/sje-lent-t-shirt/>) options.

- **Soup Lunch** Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>

**XI. Grandparents Day**

We discussed last semester that we would discuss GP's day in Spring Semester. We can think about a March or May date. We will ask for chairperson(s) to volunteer to plan the event.

**XII. Mother/Son Event (Marie Reblora)**

We didn't have in the Fall due to other activities going on and we discussed having it in April. A volunteer contacted Megan and expressed interest in hosting a dance. Any feedback? Majority of boys would not be thrilled with the idea. The Sox game has been successful in the past and if it's a family day. Megan will take the feedback back to volunteers to explore ideas further. Hawks game, Bulls game. Chicago Dogs game (they don't start until May)

**XIII. Spring Fling - Saturday, May 3rd @ Halls of St. George (Jeanne Lukac)**

- Next Committee Meeting – Wednesday, Jan 24<sup>th</sup> 7PM @ Trinity Hall
  - Liquor Liaison
  - Raffle ticket shadow
  - Volunteer coordinator shadow

Jeanne described many of the details captured in previous minutes in that it's going to be more social/mingling vs formal dinner. Volunteers are welcome to attend the next committee meeting to get some service hours. As described in previous meetings, the Spring Fling will be Kentucky Derby themed! We are still looking for Kentucky Derby themed games/contests. Volunteer sheets are also on the website if you chose to not attend or meet \$200 financial obligation. Parents can elect to work the event in lieu of the \$200 minimum financial obligation. We are fundraising for renovations on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, middle school hallway, we want to make gymnasium upgrades (sound absorbers, water fountain/bottle filler). We also want to invest in hands-on enrichment learning curriculums. We are counting on Spring Fling to be successful so that we can fund these improvements.

**XIV. Financial Report (Heather DeJarlais)**

We are doing ok with money for this point in the year. We promised teachers we would fund field trips. Proposed 7<sup>th</sup> grade Holocaust Museum, 8<sup>th</sup> Shakespeare, 6<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> bus. \$650 per bus. Parents will still fund most of field trip (tickets to venues) Goal is we will cover the bus in future trips. Motion made and passed unanimously for HSA to fund bus transportation.

**Cage cleaning scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**XV. Proposed Spending/Voting**

- New Drama Enrichment Class (Katie described a contact of hers from a previous school who taught grade school and theater in NWI. She would like to bring her into SJE to give students a drama enrichment option (and maybe a play for parents!). The candidate is very excited about the opportunity and meeting at the school tomorrow. This program would start on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. We need money for a stipend like other programs.
- Safety Purchases (\$8,400 for Safety supply buckets and quick door-stoppers – we did ask for them to be donated or to be provided at cost, this is the high end of the range estimate)

- Water RO System for Teachers' Lounge & MEC (\$1,800 to replace coolers with systems with RO drinking water system (\$900 per system))
- Heather proposed Whiteboards for \$100 for middle school math (YES)

#### **XVI. Open Discussion**

Ms Lowe: Moving into the fall, HSA should strongly consider going cashless. It would require anyone handling money to be Giftsmart trained (it's fairly easy online training). There's some learning involved to make it happen, but more convenient, 21<sup>st</sup> century and easier to streamline all of our events and fundraiser. Each event has its own Giftsmart "campaign" with its own QR code, accounting and reporting. It's very user friendly. Spring Fling has already been in Giftsmart and should make it easy for other events because all the parents and most vendors and sponsors are in the system. Jeanne is going to find out if there are any limits on campaigns, etc.

Stephanie Bracken an additional request re the Daddy Daughter Dance – we are looking for a set of sporting event tickets (4) to include in a raffle basket.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40PM.