

VISITATION PTO MEETING MINUTES

Visitation PTO August 2020 General Meeting Minutes

Date, Time, and Location: Tuesday, August 18, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Meeting called to order by Giovanna Diiorio at 7:02 p.m.

Attendance: See sign in sheet. There were 37 members in attendance; a quorum was reached.

Fr. Jim was in attendance and led us in opening prayer.

Minutes: First meeting of the 2020-2021 school year

Pastor's Report:

- Changes with Covid
 - Generally school raises about \$147K in fundraisers, after care \$165K, and \$137K prepayment.
 - Taking conservative approach with finances
 - \$350K-\$450K shortfall
 - Finance council reviewed
 - Almost \$300K expenses we could cut back on
 - \$165K-\$265K shortfall this fiscal year
 - Not to be alarmed, worse came to worse we still have enough in reserves to cover shortfall
 - PPP loan assisted greatly and we receive about \$104K to help us across the two fiscal years
 - Our situation will be tight but we are in stable financial shape
 - Hopeful that PTO will be able to brainstorm how we can do fundraisers
 - Renew Visitation – 3 year campaign was 3.1 million
 - Upstairs in both buildings was refreshed, computer room, music room
 - Refurbish interior of church happening now
 - Fr. Jim has been asked: Can we take renew Viz money and apply to current financial needs. No because the funds raised can only be used for the purpose raised.
 - Working on putting electrical panel for A/C. Slow process. Plan is to start electrical panel this year and perhaps install A/C next summer.
 - If we get into a financial jam, will the archdiocese bail us out? No, they are in a similar situation. Together in Mission funds needy parishes and we are not able to access that money.

Principal's Report:

- Echo Fr. Jim's statements. Additionally:
 - We had some retirements and we used that opportunity to help us manage the shortfall. We had 3 people in the office and now we'll have 2.
 - Wanted to take these cuts that are internally challenging but won't have a student impact.
 - Willing to make the trade as long as the students are impacted.
 - Plans remain in place for when we return to campus
 - Have to wait for LA County for green light and off watch list for 14 days
 - Krista Doby and Stephen Brown have been helping provide guidance and information
 - September 1st we will return online
 - August graphic along with Zoom schedule was released
 - Live instruction will be between 1-3 Zooms per day.
 - All subjects will be taught whether live or recorded.
 - Model is teachers will deliver content and teaching. Parents will act as an aide to guide students.
 - Google classroom will be platform JK-8. Will sync with Gradelink & myhomework.com. We will be adding Google Guardians so you get an email notification for new assignments, late or missing.
 - Weekly email of will be sent out each Monday to parents so they have an idea of what will happen during that week.
 - First Week
 - Less screen time
 - Go over expectations, classroom schedule, zoom etiquette, plagiarism policies, parent teacher handbook, cheating policies, getting to know students & having fun
 - The only piece we don't have coming back right now, is yoga. Historically, that was provided at no cost to school and no cost to parents. It was a grant through Drollinger and are working on other options. We hope to be able to continue when we are back in person.
 - Trying to do an appropriate amount of time on Zoom and strike a balance.
 - As kids get older, students will naturally have more screen time, but if that is being used for learning, recommend less screen time for free time.
 - Meet and Greet info coming out tomorrow
 - Exact schedules will be coming shortly after that
 - Teachers have another in service to look at racial injustice and tolerance. It will help our teachers look internally but also assess whether we have the right resources and tools for us to educate our kids about culture, acceptance, racism, etc.
 - What if I can't make meet and greet?
 - Teacher will be distributing books and a packet of materials
 - If you can't make it, email the office and you can arrange a time to pick up the first week of school.
 - While there you will see plexiglass guard for every desk and teacher desk

- Furniture will be moved out in the future so we can spread desks
- Is there an end to the day?
 - Some of the independent work takes some kids 20 minutes and some 2 hours, so it's hard to say.
 - Don't want it to take more than 2-3 hours after 3pm.
 - If it takes 20minutes for every student maybe we need more rigor. There might be a gap of where the students are vs where they need to be. Teachers need a week or two to figure out where their class is academically.
- Have we given consideration to a hybrid model to split classes sizes?
 - We have 3-5 feet in between desks. We can't do hybrid because we only have 1 teacher per class. So they would have to teach double the amount of teaching in the same amount of time to teach on campus and online. We currently don't have that teacher power or space.
- Do we have a 1st grade aide?
 - During online learning we won't have an aide but we will when we go back
- Can we have a camera in the classroom for high risk students
 - We can't have a camera in the classroom
 - But we would treat it more like an illness where the student can continue to do work from home.
- When school reopens is a decision from the Archbishop. He's going to take his cues from Mayor, Governor, medical professionals, etc. He's conservative and won't green light until it is recommended.
 - The church will likely follow suit when that directive is given
 - Likewise it will close if the school has to close

Committee Reports

(name of speaker, summary of business discussed)

- STEM Fair
 - 60 kids and 33 project summaries were turned in
 - The plan is to play 20-21 by ear and try to do some version of the STEM Fair
- Golf Tournament
 - Postponed in March, scheduled for June but couldn't use carts, etc. so cancelled for 2020
 - Scheduled for May 2021
 - Working on selecting winner for golf ball drop. Will use a randomizer
- Jog-A-Thon
 - Moved to March to accommodate for Golf being moved to May
- Fall Fundraisers and what that might look like if we are back to school
 - Need ideas
- Diversity and Inclusion Group (Lynette, Jen, Amelyn, Jean)
 - Initially it was asked if we could donate any money from the Exercise-A-Thon to any causes but instead educating our children and put back into Visitation community
 - Committee has created a diversity and inclusion resolution that will benefit our community

- Mission statement has been drafted and needs to be reviewed
- Classrooms with diverse books to learn about different cultures
- Speaker to talk with teachers and parents
- Curriculum ideas to support the teachers
- Setting Viz up as a forward thinking school in this space
- Looking for more people to help if interested
- Things this group will be/ has been looking at:
 - Hiring practices
 - Turn some of those funds inward and use to purchase diverse library so that any child can pick up a book and find someone who looks like them
 - The hope is that this is a temporary group and at some point this is so ingrained in our culture and community that we don't need it

New Business

(key information and motions voted on)

- How can we build community within Visitation during this time? Any fundraisers? Think about:
 - Pajama gala, dance lesson, cooking class, mixologist to make drinks
 - Kids will zoom
 - But Parents will miss out on being together
 - PTO to help community build
- Family envelope will be online

Other Upcoming Events

Additional Questions/Comments/Concerns:

- Will we still have a service hours requirement?
 - Service hours are done in social setting and as of now, no social settings
 - Figure out ways to fundraise but we can't require service hours if there aren't opportunities to do them
- Can we use the schoolyard for PE afterschool?
 - Yes but only one family in a group and if there are more than one family then people need masks
 - Everyone must have their own equipment and people cant use other people's equipment
 - Room parents have to get approval from parents before communication can begin so room parents will begin reaching out to the class via the office in the next two weeks.
 - If you need something more urgently and would like to connect with a room parent please reach out to the office.
- Resource for how to talk to your kids about the coronavirus-
<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/coronavirus-how-talk-child.html>

Next meeting: August 2020

Meeting adjourned at 8:26pm

Minutes compiled by Deborah Abdelkerim, Secretary