

PREP Moms

September 8, 2015
Meeting Minutes

I. Opening Prayer – Fr. Tom Neitzke, SJ

II. Introductions
Prep Moms Officers

Attendees:

Kris	Atkins	Heidi	Leaders
Allison	Baysa	Mary Beth	Lindsay
Maureen	Brennan	Toody	Moffatt
Diane	Delaney	Sherese	Morrow
Christina	Diers	Fr. Tom	Neitzke, SJ
Monique	Donahoe	Michelle	Olmo
Melissa	Duffy	Kathleen	Pallessen
Julie	Dunbar	Kim	Peake
Maureen	Emodi	Beth	Rivera
Tanya	Fletcher	Lisa	Schally
Cindy	Fritton	Polly	Snodgrass-Evans
Carroll	Hacker	Ann	Tjaden
Genevieve	Hertzel	Paula	Toth
Kelly	Hickey	Michelle	Varney
Deb	Karnish	Staci	Witkowski
Laura	Kwong	Michele	Zadalis
Molly	Lang		

III. Report – Mr. John Naatz
Read per Maureen in place of Mr. Naatz:

- Students: 1,024 total students, 276 freshman, 263 sophomores, 256 juniors, 229 seniors. There were 22 transfer students over summer.
- ACT: Prep students fared well from the 2015 test.
- Twenty-four grads from 2015 were named AP scholars by the College Board. Only 13 percent who took the test overall earned this merit.
- Nebraska School Activities Association gave awards to several Prep students.
- Drug testing/Health and Wellness program: Results from the random drug and alcohol testing during the first year: There were 918 random tests conducted. Of these, there were 12 positive tests for alcohol or marijuana. The administration of

process has proceeded smoothly and relatively transparent in the regular school routine. There were 11 violations, which is far below previous years. Time will tell if these results are related to the program.

- Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS): Prep students will participate again this year. Part of the purpose is to develop health prevention strategies for school age youth.
- 24 Catholic colleges will attend prep at annual event on Sept. 23.
- Tuesday, August 4, Prep welcomed new teachers and staff.
- Jesuit Schools Network – There will be staff participating in these workshops over two years to learn about Ignatian leadership. The conferences are throughout the school year.

IV. President's Report – Fr. Neitzke

- Thank you to Prep Moms for all that is done that is not always known or recognized.
- Prep expanded the Health and Wellness to faculty and staff. Fitbits were offered as well as a free salad bar as long as they eat communally in faculty room. If someone accepted a Fitbit, s/he had to sign up for an exercise group in the interest of fun and community-building. This has been well-received.
- Mr. Naatz to retire at end of 2015-16 school year. Prep has sent out a survey to constituencies for feedback. Otherwise, this is currently a targeted search. Hopefully by Christmas, Fr. Neitzke will have someone named so that Mr. Naatz can retire before July 1.
- Fr. Neitzke is having lunches with seniors in small groups. He is quizzing them on the positives and negatives of their time at Prep. Father reports that the students were consistently very articulate about their experience at Prep. Among the strengths were brotherhood, community and faith. This is a testament to the education at Prep. The students also always talk about retreats and provide feedback on how good they are and how to enhance further. They mention the faculty. They have provided varying feedback but the underlying message is that the students know that the faculty care and challenge the students even if the students don't like the teacher. Father's goal and his goal for the teachers is that each student feels that he is an able learner.
- The strategic planning process – will be formalized at the board level. It is a one-page document renewed every year.
- Primarily in his first year he plans to establish relationships, build rapport and build a better sense of community.
- He also aims to raise endowment. This is the only way to keep tuition down. The goal at this point is to add an additional \$5 million by end of year.
- There will be a new marketing and branding for Prep in the Omaha market. Other Catholic schools are the biggest competition. Need to think about how we recruit and retain.
- How do we make Prep attractive for faculty and staff and retain them. Pay is relatively competitive at one year behind OPS.

- Health and wellness program enhancements – specifically in the cafeteria. Should a full-service kitchen with nutritionists be pursued? Redesign Commons for a larger kitchen? These are under discussion.
- The “Keeping the Promise” campaign is now over, and a large gift was received with the purpose of re-doing the signage, including the stone sign at the entrance on 72nd St. Leo A Daly Architects is designing new signage.
- Student chapel – it is very small and can’t fit a whole class. Would like to fit 250.

Any questions:

Q: How is the iPad program going?

A: Father can’t answer for certain as it is early. Probably next year we will know better.

Q: My son says he can’t use his account for the salad bar?

A: Yes – he has to swipe. The students have to go through a separate line because it’s on a different computer system.

Q: Is the search for the principal regional or national?

A: National. Prep is looking for someone who has experience in a Jesuit high school.

Q: On the Rebranding/Marketing – what does it mean?

A: Prep may tweak the art on the seal and add some color but it will remain very much the same. Prep is pondering how to solve the issue of dispelling the perception that Prep is only for the wealthy.

Q: On the competition – are public schools part of the competition?

A: Yes - Millard South is the largest Catholic high school in the city. How do you convince people who have never paid tuition before to jump to \$10K/year? There has been a suggestion of having buses looping certain parishes. This may provide a welcome means of transportation for families who live further out.

Q: is there a committee promoting the school?

A: Yes, the board.

V. Prep Moms President’s Report

Summer Mailing

- This was sent to all households. There were 75 committee signups, 60 faculty luncheon signups and about 30 signed up online. Some committees need help.

General Business

- Instead of doing a Teacher's Wish List, it was decided to reimburse monies for items that align with contributing to the Prep Moms mission. Money was disbursed for the salad bar, to put a large crucifix in the Heider Center, and to put a quote (the magnanimous quote from Pope Francis) on a wall in the Sullivan Center.
- Parent Board – This organization was dissolved this month. A letter was distributed at the meeting explaining the reasons. The mission of improved communication is now accomplished with online access. Mom Prom will now be aligned with the Prep Moms organization; money from Mom Prom goes toward Post Prom party. There will be a new parent committee, which will likely be added next school year. This will connect the parents of the Big Brothers with the parents of the Freshman Little Brothers.
- Mom Prom is Feb. 15. There is a late start the next morning. Lisa Koch is the chair. A co-chair is still needed; someone who can commit to two years. Also needs a couple of other chairs. A request was made to encourage teachers not to have tests right after.
- Paper sign-up sheets were distributed at the meeting for Mom Prom.
- Meetings for the Mom Prom committee will start soon.

Volunteers

- The Jay Mart and cafeteria can always use more volunteers.

VI. Committee Reports

Jay Mart – Joy Witecy

- Email Joy if you are not already on the Jay Mart sign-up genius. jwite@prep.creighton.edu.

Sports Physicals – Mary Foley

- This was held the first Sunday in August. There was a good turnout. Likely next year there will not be an official end time. It will end when there are no more students who have come for the physicals. This is out of respect for the medical field volunteer parents who are volunteering their time.

Freshman/Transfer Student Orientation – Lisa Gell/Liz Barton

- There were six volunteers for setup/cleanup. Cookies and lemonade were provided.

Freshman/Transfer Student Potluck – Geni Hertzell

- Great volunteer help this year (8). Generally serves 600-800 people. Families bring chicken and salad or dessert. This year there were about 700. Expenses were \$86 for paper products, flowers and balloons.

Welcome Dance – Stacey Burke

- Water, cookies, chaperones. There were six parents.

Mini School Night – Missi Schembari/Lisa Wellendorf

- Thirty people sent two dozen cookies each; there were volunteers for setup/cleanup.

School Directory – Cathy Fluckey

- These were sold at Mini School Night. Ordered 500, and 250 were sold that night. \$5/each. Will sell at conferences again and possible Mother/Son Breakfast.
- This is a big job that technically can't start until school starts and the official student enrollment is finalized.

VII. Upcoming Activities

- September Faculty/Staff Appreciation Luncheon 9/28 – Julie Dunbar
- Freshman Homecoming 10/2 – Polly Snodgrass-Evans
- Homecoming 10/3 – Stacey Burke
- Prep Mom's Fall Social 10/22 – Cathy Goracke/Tanya Fletcher
 - Thursday Oct. 2, 7-9 p.m. in Commons. Fellowship, food, live music, door prizes. There will be a signup later in Sept. Casual atmosphere. A night where you are not asked to work, but to share in fellowship.
- October Faculty/Staff Appreciation Luncheon TBA – Maureen Tierney Brennan
- Open House 11/1 – Heidi Leaders/Theresa Ogorzaly

VIII. Guest Speaker – Fr. Neitzke (see above)

- Reminder to come support the fundraiser this Saturday, Sept. 12 for math teacher Jim Fischer.

Questions:

Q: Re: Homecoming – dates are not required?

A: For freshmen, dates are not required. This is on a separate night.

Q: What happens if I missed being able to buy the Jaybacker card at Mini School Night?

A: This can be purchased online from the Athletics section of the menu bar.

IX. Closing Prayer

Next Prep Moms Meeting:

Tuesday, November 10th at 7:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Mrs. Sarah Smith, Science Department