

**HOME, SCHOOL & CHURCH ASSOCIATION**  
**Committee Report Meeting Minutes**  
**January 20, 2011**  
**St. Mary's School Multi-Purpose Room – 6:00 PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Christine Lilla, Arlene Tenner, Stephanie Schleicher, Christine Charbonneau, Carolyn Anderson, Mary Medini, Leesa Chrisco, Tanya Weinzierl, Mari Zarcone-Patterson, Faith Edaburn, Jim Hilty, Maureen Kilian, James Lilla, Chris Rud, Dan & Kristin Krueger, Amy Botz, Sherry Wolf-Halonen, Kris & Chad Denucci, Fr. Jim Brinkman, Bettina Schutte, Matt & Tresa Germain, Ed Paulson, Kevin & Angela Effertz, Chris & Annette Rud, Jody Lenz, Steve & Jacquie Graham, Patty Johnson, Krissy Dalton, Tim & Michelle Scanlon, Mary Rosauer, Kate Harrold, Chris & Nicole Henning (30 families represented)

**CALL TO ORDER/PRAYER:** Christine Lilla called meeting to order at 6 PM and led with a prayer.

**ROLL CALL/SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Nothing to report. No questions from last meeting. Mary Medini accepted minutes from last meeting and Sherry Wolf-Halonen seconded.

**SCRIP PRESENTATION:** Arlene Tenner presented a PowerPoint slideshow detailing the Scrip Program and how it will be tied to the tuition contracts for the 2011-2012 school year.  
See attached PowerPoint slideshow.

**QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION:**

**Q:** Multiple families asked if the excess profit that they make can roll over to next year's requirement.

**A:** No, it is a year to year assessment.

**Q:** What percentage of families participates in Scrip now?

**A:** We don't know. We have not been tracking that so far. When this program goes into effect all Scrip sales will be accounted for, even at weekend Mass.

**Q:** How would Stephanie and Christine prefer us to order Scrip? Online or using order forms?

**A:** Either way is fine. There are benefits to ordering some items online if you need them while there is not someone available to sell Scrip. Some items can be printed right at home.

**Q:** Is the requirement \$150 profit per family or per child?

**A:** It is per family.

**Q:** If the \$150 Scrip fee had not been implemented per family what would the tuition increase per student have been?

**A:** The viability study showed a \$100 increase per student, per year for the next five years.

**Q:** The budget reports that we were recently shown showed us in the red.

**A:** At this time, the 2011-2012 budget is projecting a bottom line negative \$8,000. However, this will change as the school year progresses.

**Q:** Is there anything we need to do for tax purposes?

**A:** Visit IRS.gov and research charitable giving. You may also want to consult with your tax preparer.

**Q:** Is the Scrip website listed on the pink order form that is in the family folders?

**A:** Yes and it is [www.glscrip.com](http://www.glscrip.com)

**Q:** For the people who order the same Scrip all the time, what would the ordering preference be?

**A:** Order ahead using form in family folder or on the Scrip website.

**Q:** How much Scrip do we keep on hand?

**A:** \$33,000 – 60 vendors

**Q:** Will we ever be able to purchase using credit cards?

**A:** Four years ago we had a presentation from a credit card company and decided that we could not afford the start-up and monthly fees for the machine. At that time a group of families were polled and they indicated that they didn't want the credit card machine. Mrs. Patterson stated that the school may take action for another presentation from another company to go over costs once more.

**Q:** Has anyone from St. Mary's School talked to St. Bridget's about their credit card program with SCRIP?

**A:** No. The parent who asked this question went on to share the following information: St. Bridget's Church accountant, Ric Johnson and SCRIP program manager Tim Lehl, shared with him that they started the credit card program in February of 2009 and were willing to give it a six month trail. They currently have 1,700 families using their church based SCRIP of which 15 percent of those families use the credit card option. They found the availability has generated more profit. In January 2011 they have started a 2 percent surcharge on credit card purchases. Visa and Master card do not like surcharges and specifically prohibit merchants from levying any kind of surcharge for using one of their branded cards, credit or debit. American Express and Discover do not prohibit surcharges. Ten states have outlawed surcharges for using a credit card. Wisconsin has not outlawed surcharges on credit cards. Visa and MasterCard say as long as merchant's fees are embedded within the final price and they offer discounts incentives for cash or check purchases then there is no shopper discrimination.

**Q:** There will be a lot of questions regarding the success and processes after the first year. Will there be a roundtable discussion at the end of a year?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** What has been the profit from Scrip over the last several years?

**A:** That would be difficult to look at because of the high percentage that Kwik Trip offered for the first three years.

**Q:** Will we get a receipt or statement to look at our history so we know how we are doing?

**A:** Yes, statements will be mailed or emailed throughout the year so we know if we are falling short and so that we aren't trying to make it all up at the end of the year.

**Q:** St. Anne's sends out a spreadsheet so their families can use the same spreadsheet as the Scrip coordinators who are keep the books. Can that be done for us as well?

**A:** Yes, Stephanie can email out the template.

#### **COMMENTS OFFERED:**

- Father Jim commented that Scrip is a way of life and not an inconvenience. For example we can use the Wal-Mart Scrip cards online just like a credit card. That protects the purchaser from risking personal information about themselves by putting their credit card number out on the internet.
- Menards also offers a benefit for cardholders. Example, if you purchase a \$2,000 order you only have to put \$1 on your Menards Big Card to receive their incentives. So, you could purchase Scrip (a win for the school, and get your incentives from Menards as an win for you)
- While it is not allowed by the IRS to purchase Scrip for family members, Fr. Jim says it is a personal choice. The Scrip coordinators cannot advise us to do that.
- If families do not want to participate in the Scrip program they may opt out by paying the additional \$150 fee.
- This payment is not tax deductible because it is a fee and not a donation.
- **Future Q&A sessions will be announced in the coming weeks.**

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mardi Gras: Kate Harrold provided an update on Mardi Gras sharing that we have a new band, City Vibe, and we will be nominating a queen in the future. In lieu of families donating items for baskets for the auction, the committee has asked for monetary donations so they can purchase some larger electronic items for the auction.

Catholic Schools Week: Stephanie Schleicher provided an update on the Home & School breakfast that will kick off Catholic Schools Week. She is still in need of some volunteers for the cleanup after breakfast and she thanked all those who have already volunteered.

Childcare over the March Break: A poll was taken to see how many families would use childcare over the March break. We will provide it if there is a need. It was stated that the cost would be the normal After School Care rate of \$4 per hour but if that was too high to not be discouraged. Mrs. Patterson stated that she would work out a deal with families who need the service.

**CLOSING PRAYER AT 7 PM**

Our next meeting will be at 6 pm on Thursday, March 3, 2011 in the Multipurpose Room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Anderson, Secretary