Aquinas Catholic Educators Spring Service Board Meeting

June 20, 2019

Village Inn, 32nd Ave. S. Fargo, ND

Meeting opened with prayer at 7:30pm, led by Joe Johnson. All three board members attending and two guests: Kathryn Shorma and Chad Prososki.

Minutes of last meeting approved unanimously.

Service board reports:

Treasurer’s report:

* The website we have takes care of the accounting easily
* 27 families are “parked” (These families were previously members but had not paid dues last year. The cost of the website depends on the number of families, $7 per family plus a base fee of about $35.)
* 29 families are paid
* Current balance of $751.82
* A copy of the treasurer’s report was passed around and reviewed.

No secretary, no report.

Vice-Chairperson:

* Marsha counted 12 families had helped over the last year (but admittedly needs to double-check with the website/calendar to verify).
* The spring formal was very successful with almost double the attendees of 2018. Doing it again in 2020, the Friday evening before Mother’s Day.

Chairperson:

No changes made to the website by the chair.

Old Business:

Future of ACE website:

No changes to be made at this time. More discussion among the member families needs to happen prior to the annual meeting in August so there can be a proposal/motion to be voted on at that time. After much discussion, this was tabled until the next meeting.

New Business:

Future of ACE/Goals of ACE:

We are here to give support and encouragement (per our By-laws). We want the group to exist (keep the group, yes!) and thrive but how to get engagement/get people involved? This tied into the discussions of website &/or facebook, new board members, member commitment/ service requirement, activities and the potential co-op this fall.

Member commitment/ service requirement:

Since the 2018 annual meeting was only attended by the board member families (weather was iffy, location was further away at Buffalo River State park, etc.), we missed the chance to make sure newer families were even aware of the requirement. (Article IV - Membership Section D. Service Requirement “Each registered family will commit to one service requirement per year. This will be coordinated by the Vice Chair.”)

One-on-one personal contact is needed. We ought to send out a reminder periodically throughout the year, and we need to provide resources to new member families, like a list of options or ideas. Marsha will learn how to do sign-up genius before August. She has a list of ideas ready, including fall and spring potlucks, one field trip per season, the Spring Formal, and Graduation.

There are 7 parishes in Fargo-Moorhead plus places like Wild Rice and Hillsboro. We will put together a blurb to go into the respective church bulletins, after July 4th, to advertise our Annual Meeting and potluck in August. On the agenda for that meeting, the service requirement will be included along with appropriate contact information.

New Member Packet to become new business for next meeting. There used to be a “ new member packet” and it’s still listed on the website/in the by-laws. Marsha put together an activity listing two years ago that could be the bulk of a new member packet along with info for the state homeschool organizations and HLSDA. We ought to share ideas before the August meeting.

Possibility of Co-op starting in Fall:

Co-op would probably meet twice a month for enrichment (not core areas). Ask parents interested what their strengths/interests are (like art or architecture). Consider the timing/scheduling, especially so Dads could be involved. Should have a consistent schedule and will need meeting(s) in summer to determine particulars like meeting place and what to do. Should have a proposal for voting on at August meeting.

New Board Members:

The full service board could be replaced. The Secretary, Treasurer, and Chairperson positions are open. We currently have no secretary and the treasurer has wanted to step down for a year. We would like nominations for all positions including the three “At- large” members listed in the by-laws. Who are the experienced homeschoolers who could do those main positions? The chairperson will advertise for those board positions, separate from the fall meeting advertisement.

Fall Potluck:

August potluck, week night, not too late, no grilling so everyone can participate. Will do a sign-up genius for the meal (main dish, dessert, sides). Try Holy Spirit Catholic Church social hall first, a park if that doesn’t work out. We should invite the pastors of our parishes. After discussion and consideration of current board members schedules, August 20th was chosen. Come at 5:30, eat promptly at 6:00, meet afterwards at 6:30 (move it along). [Joe, feel free to tweak as necessary. And we could have info tables up again like the American Heritage girls, 4H, etc.]

Meeting ended approx. 9:30pm with prayer.