

# H.S.A. November Meeting Minutes

Weds., Nov. 12, 2014

## Opening Remarks

Carlos Pla

## Prayer

Father LaHood

## Approve October Meeting Minutes

Carlos Pla

## Principal's Remarks

Steve Showalter

All parents belong to H.S.A.

Lockdown exercise – later this month information will go home. This will be a drill exercise. See how all 9 grades fit in lower level hallway. Pre-K will remain in their area.

Survey – For advanced accreditation, it was sent home. Please fill out, it includes questions on finances and academics.

Bishop McNamara High School – we receive thousands of dollars over the years in scholarships.

## Unfinished Business

Carlos Pla

Question sheet: Treasurer's report – 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation (donation) . What was it?

It was an anonymous donation from a Washington D.C. charity group.

## New Business

P. Garber

BMHS admissions director – Pam Garber

She taught at St. Mary of the Assumption for 3 years.

All the schools have a different personality.

There are 2 Archdiocesan High Schools:

- 1) Don Bosco
- 2) Archbishop Carroll

Visit schools and find the one that is right fit for your child.

HSPT – only one aspect used to look at things for 8<sup>th</sup> graders. 11 schools use it. Co-choice (means you can pick two schools). 3<sup>rd</sup> choice can be in Arlington or Baltimore diocese.

Other schools don't use test:

- 1) Georgetown Prep
- 2) St Anselm
- 3) Stone Ridge

Catholic elementary schools (partner schools) set a foundation for success. High schools look at the longevity of relationship. How long your child has attended Catholic school

**What high schools look at:**

- 1) HSPT
- 2) Scantron scores
- 3) Teacher recommendations and evaluations

**Costs** (Besides tuition) – technology fee, books, etc

**Uniform vs. Dress Code** – Some schools don't have uniforms, so you have to consider clothing costs.

**Projecting cost over 4 years:** Tuition increase averages 4% per year. Think of it as a 4 year investment.

**Sports:** Does your child want to be at a school even if they can't be part of particular team?

**Values:** Find a school that supports your morals and values. Do they have students that go into religious vocation?

**Financial Aid** – Best consideration by Dec. 15 (Apply at same time you apply for admission). Archdiocese and schools have separate buckets of money. Apply to both for scholarships and aid.

**Application** – Dec. 15.

Bishop McNamara High School – gets 800 applications. Accepts about 225 each year. Scholarships are generally merit based. Moreau scholarships – top 10% of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class takes the test. Fine arts scholarships – band, drama, dance, chorus. Also presidential (outstanding citizens). No sports scholarships.

St. Mary's kids – tend to be well prepared and hard working.

**Top tips:**

- 1) Get to know schools: explore your future (ADW.org).
- 2) Come up with a pros/cons list for each school (both parent and student)
- 3) What detracts from getting in? Want: Kids that are hardworking, working up to ability and good attitude. Detractors: great standardized test scores but low grades (schools want to know why). More negatives – report card comments, want to see them growing and learning from mistakes made. If a child is persistently disrespectful, that's a problem.
- 4) Visit shadow days and open houses – Parents stand back and watch your child on shadow day visits. Visit a school on a normal school day and not open house
- 5) Beware of trends and fads – keep options open for kids

- 6) Tuition range – don't automatically rule out higher price schools. They have bigger endowments and give out more scholarships. Don't rule out a school because it's less expensive. Talk to admissions people about financial aid.
- 7) Transportation – Use shadow visit to figure out if you can deal with commute on a daily basis.

### **Fundraiser**

Lori Woltman

Chocolate bars starts Fri., Nov. 15 and ends Mon., Dec. 1  
Great prizes: Xbox one for first place seller  
Second Nintendo DS  
Target gift cards  
Every student who sells 60 bars gets name in drawing  
Highest selling class get their own party of their choice.

Goal – sell 15,000 chocolate bars.

### **Schoolreach**

Let's you know school is closed if PG County school is out that day.

Late arrival or early dismissal is also alerted.

### **Family involvement in academics**

Ms. Clark/Ms. Stickley

Family Literacy night – Beginning of March (Dr. Seuss' Birthday) About 2 hours long.

Please submit ideas to Ms. Stickley and Ms. Clark.

Earn service hours for helping out.

### **Christmas Craft Fair – Dec. 6**

Vendors will be in gym.

Organizations will have tables in Family Life Center.

7 spots still left. Every vendor is \$50.

### **Banner Count:**

1<sup>th</sup> grade