

CBA Mothers' Club Monthly Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2021
Called to Order 7:30 p.m

Executive Board Members 2021-2022:

Moderator	Tom Ferro
President	Paula McKeon
Vice President	Rosemarie Lakeman
Treasurer	Heather Scaturro
Secretary	Josy Coughlin
Communications Officer	Maureen Faletti
Past President	Beth Caruso

Opening Prayer and Remarks:

Paula began the meeting by welcoming everyone to Alumni Hall and asked Tom Ferro to give the Opening Prayer.

After giving the Opening Prayer, Tom stated that there was positive news about the Capital Campaign, some of which he was not at liberty to yet disclose, but the November edition of the Colt Connect would be lengthy and would have most of the updated information. Tom mentioned there are fundraising events on the calendar targeting the Rumson, Colts Neck, Middletown/Lincroft areas as the Capital Campaign enters its final stretch. The new goal is \$15 million and Tom is optimistic the new goal will be surpassed. Tom also noted the Annual Fund is already \$20k over where it was last year. Before passing the meeting back to Paula, Tom mentioned the Pot of Gold raffle tickets would be available after the meeting to anyone interested in purchasing or selling the tickets. The drawing for the Pot of Gold will be at the Mothers' Club & Fathers' Club Christmas Liturgy to be held on December 13th.

Paula opened by thanking the Mothers' Club Luncheon Committee led by Marta Petrocelli, Colleen Ailor and Coco Forster for the great efforts that went into making the day a huge success. Treasurer Heather Scaturro reported preliminary numbers that showed the event made over \$50k.

Paula then moved the meeting to address new business. First is the Vineyard Vines shopping day to be held on November 16th from 10am to 1pm. Shoppers will receive a 10% discount and Vineyard Vines will give 10% to the CBA Mothers' Club. Paula encouraged everyone to participate and said the information would also be published on the Mothers' Club social media accounts.

Paula mentioned there is an upcoming volunteer opportunity with Campus Ministry for the Junior retreats at St. Anselm's in Tinton Falls. The retreats are 2 days this week and next week and Mr. Butler needs assistance with the student breakfast. Anyone interested can put their name and contact information on the sign-up sheet available at the end of the meeting.

Mrs. Szablewski is also looking for volunteers on November 30th at 5pm to help with placing Christmas trees, decorations and lights around the school. This will also be a volunteer opportunity for any student in need of service hours. Pizza and dessert will be provided and anyone interested can put their name and contact information on the sign-up sheet available at the end of the meeting.

Next, Christine Condon shared that the San Alfonso Retreat House would be having a Christmas Open House & Holiday Sale at their gift shop on November 11th and 29th. Christine is the chairperson of the annual retreat and she encouraged the shopping days as a way to give back to the Retreat House as they did have many cancellations over the past year as a result of Covid. Christine passed out flyers with the details.

Paula moved to the Winter Gala which is scheduled for late January 2022. Laura Sheehy was invited to speak about the event. The theme will be Bacon, Bourbon and Blues and it will be held at the Asbury Hotel. The Asbury Hotel has offered a block of discounted rooms to be reserved for anyone attending the event. Laura asked for volunteers to assist with the Ad Journal and for donations for live auction items. Anyone with information to share can contact Laura and there is a sign-up sheet available at the end of the meeting.

Paula then let everyone know the December meeting is the Mothers' Club & Fathers' Club Christmas Liturgy and Reception to be held on December 13th in the theater and cafeteria. Summing up, Paula reminded everyone of the shopping days for Vineyard Vines and San Alfonso as well as the sign-up sheets available for the Junior Retreats, School Decorating and Winter Gala. Everyone was invited to enjoy the generous spread put together by the talented Hospitality Committee as the evening's guest speaker, Mr. David Frick of the Guidance Department made his presentation.

Mr. Frick began by discussing the recent structural changes within the Guidance Department. Both Mr. Frick and Ms. Morrello are new hires this year and both come from well-established counseling careers prior to joining CBA. Mrs. Nicole Johnson is still the counselor for Freshmen. As Sophomores, each student will be assigned a counselor that will stay with them through to graduation. The focus is on building a relationship between the student and the counselor that will then lead to a very well prepared letter of recommendation for the college application process. Parents are asked to encourage their sons to reach out to their counselor for any reason. After meeting with the current Sophomores, the counselors noticed that as a result of the students' limited time as Freshmen on campus due to Covid, they are not aware of the many resources that are available to them both academically and socially. The Guidance Department will be meeting with the Sophomores during Enrichment on Wednesday morning of this week as a re-introduction of the many resources that are available. Mr. Frick stressed using the National Honor Society student tutoring available after school instead of hiring a tutor.

The Juniors are taking the College Counseling Class every other cycle. The class gives an overview of the admissions process and defines many of the relative terminology that many of

the students are not familiar with. With the help of their counselors, the Juniors will have completed all parts of the Common App needed to date by the end of the school year. The October PSAT scores will come in by the beginning/mid December at which time the counselors will meet with their students to discuss realities, goals and next steps. Mr. Frick suggested parents look into Khan Academy which is free online and is also tied into the College Board which allows the student to create a personalized program based on scored strengths as well as subject areas that may need extra attention. In addition to Junior Parent Night next week which will be an overview for parents only, counselors will be meeting with Juniors and their parents from mid December through April.

Points of discussion:

The decision to submit or not submit test scores is fluid and based on the individual student.

The overarching suggestion is to have the student take the SAT/ACT test as it is better to take the test and not need the score than to not take the test when having the score may be beneficial.

It is not yet known if CBA will be administering the SAT for the current school year.

The name of the student's counselor can be found on Naviance.

Students are encouraged to reach out to their counselors for a meeting whenever they have questions. Scheduling is difficult, it's understood but meetings are necessary and beneficial.

It's not necessary to wait until Junior or Senior year to do a college tour. If your family is going on vacation, take a half day to go see a local school. No visit is wasted. Let the student learn what they like or don't like about a school, especially the size.

When discussing college options with your son, explain necessary parameters including finances and distance.

College Admissions is a business. Early Action does not provide the college any advantage. Early Decision gives the advantage to the college...guaranteed matriculation. Admitted ED numbers are high as most Test Optional students will go ED. Test optional means colleges will give a holistic review of the application with a focus on transcripts.

CBA has prepared your sons for this process. Give them the lead. Parents should feel free to reach out to their son's counselor with any questions or concerns.

Paula thanked everyone for attending. The meeting was motioned and seconded to close.

Meeting Time: 75 minutes