**Meeting of BDFHSA**

**September 26, 2013 7:30 PM**

***Minutes***

Opening Prayer ~ 7:05 PM

1. Announcements
   1. Catholic school Advocacy
      1. Education Choice Alliance of WNY - Speaker 10/19/13 Virginia Walden Ford - Parent Options for School Choice
      2. Education Investment Tax Credit - In the next legislative session, January 2014, we are hoping to have the NYS Assembly include legislation for the Education Investment Tax credit.
         1. Tell all your families to go to [www.investined.org](http://www.investined.org)  to sign the on-line petition
         2. Find out who your NYS Assembly member is, if they are a co-sponsor, thank them, if they are not, write them a letter telling them you want them to co-sponsor this vitally important bill.
   2. Easter Sunday Mass
      1. To be televised NATIONALLY
      2. Taping to be March 8, 2014, 10am, St. Joe’s Cathedral
      3. Get the word out! Would love the cathedral to be filled with Catholic school families
      4. Wear Easter Sunday Best
2. Outline of Association
3. By-law review
   1. Handout of proposed BDFHSA By-laws given
      1. The purpose of BDFHSA is ultimately to give parents a voice in Catholic elementary schools
      2. Each school can have three delegates. *A delegate* is anyone who pays tuition (grandparents, guardians etc.) The dues are used to hold events, bring in speakers, etc.
      3. Executive Board consists of Diocesan Moderator, Diocesan Advisor, Principal Advisor, Pastoral Advisor, Colloquium representatives and At large representatives.
      4. Sr. Carol appoints the Diocesan Advisor, Diocesan Moderator. The Principal Advisor is chosen by peers from the Executive Council. The Pastoral Advisor is suggested by the Bishop. Colloquium & at large reps are appointed by local HSA’s.
      5. At the annual Fall Meeting, all schools’ HSA members are invited to recognize outstanding parents, volunteers, successful fundraising & marketing ideas.
      6. Local HSA By-laws included on the last page Diocesan By-Laws if needed.

2. Vote confirming the proposed By-laws will be taken at the November 7th meeting.

1. Handouts on Virtus program in Catholic Schools
2. Everyone who volunteers at the school needs to be Virtus trained
3. Non-Virtus volunteers must be accompanied by a Virtus trained person at all times
4. Buffalo Diocese will be audited next year
5. Susan Lankes: Diocesan Marketing Program

A. Spoke for approximately 16 minutes on how the diocesan marketing committee can help local schools market themselves

B. Go to [www.Buffalodce.org](http://www.Buffalodce.org) Click on the “Enrollment/Advancement” tab for marketing tools.

1. Advancement Roundtable
2. Group of paid & volunteer reps from schools in the diocese
3. Get together every 6-8 weeks; next mtg. is November 12th at St. Stephen’s Parish hall, Grand Island at 8:30 AM
4. Come join us to share and discuss best practices for any & all marketing, enrollment & retention ideas
5. 3rd Annual Snowball Charity Ball
6. January 31st, 2014
7. $29 per ticket
8. Held for past two years for middle school aged students to raise money for Catholic School Tuition Scholarships
9. 2 dances: one for 5th & 6th grade and one for 7th & 8th grade on the same night and same venue- St. Gregory the Great parish hall
   1. Would like to attract 500 students for each dance
10. Goal is to expand to include all Catholic schools in this event
    1. Looking for people to help promote and organize schools in the north towns, south towns, east & west towns.
11. Chaperones
    1. Parents from participating schools
    2. High school alumni who come back
       1. HS Alumni also help decorate & promote the event
       2. Put together mission moments, go into schools & read stories from past students & families helped through tuition assistance.
12. Raised over $31,000 thus far in last 2 years for tuition assistance
13. Revitalization Presentation
14. Same presentation given to Pastor Council. See hand-out for full details
15. Pastors and Principals received a more detailed presentation
16. Bishop fully supports this initiative
17. All schools in designated clusters must meet to discuss and formulate a plan
18. By the end of November 2013 Pastors must present their plans to the Bishop
19. By the end of January 2014; Diocese will announce which schools are closing, combining, becoming regional or community schools, etc.
20. Question rose about fundraising. Sister suggested since much of the fundraising that takes place in our schools is used to cover the gap between tuition and the actual cost of education, and that gap will still need to be closed this year. Scholarship monies should be designated to follow students to their new school should their current school close.
21. Sister’s email address: [ccimino@buffalodiocese.org](mailto:ccimino@buffalodiocese.org)
22. Next Meeting November 7th location & time TBD
23. Other: Fran Kicks great speaker for kids; information left for whoever wanted it. Sister suspected it would be expensive and suggested schools pool resources

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Facts checked by Ginny Wallace & Cyndi Horrigan