

St. Robert School Advisory Board

Regular Meeting – 4/29/09 – 6:30 PM

Lauren Beckmann

Tom Zale

Matt Linn

Lisa Lesjak

Michael DeMichele

Clark Gridley

Matt Heiptas

Bill Schlise

Dan Davis

Jane Connell

Laura Maly

Joe O'Neill

Margy Cane

1. Call to Order – 6:30 PM

2. Pastor's Report – Father Dennis Absent

3. Principal's Report – 6:40 PM

- a. General Overview – many things going on right now
 - i. Staffing – Teacher contracts. Only one replacement this year. Middle school science teacher is leaving.
 - ii. Budget – some small internal reductions. Down two Teachers – one less kindergarten and one less middle school teacher.
 - iii. Space utilization update. Renovations this summer – media research and accessibility / losing two classrooms due to elevator.
 - iv. Technology acquisition – 2 new smart boards. Looking at a purchase of handheld assessment device that integrates with smart boards.
 - v. Registration for world language for 5th graders and music for middle school ongoing for fall.
 - vi. Archdiocese evaluation –
 1. Schools develop improvement plans related to learning outcomes. Led by leadership teams where principal is not the chair. Have some shared leadership that come out of student needs. Starting over with a completely new process – used to have a two separate accreditation processes-this year merged under RISSA. Will train faculty. We come up with steering committee of 4-5 persons: 2 teachers, a principal, and 2 school board members. A plan to make all schools stronger.
 2. A process to apply for exemplary recognition. We have a year to put together the foregoing.
 - vii. Discuss some of the budget reductions - \$76 - \$78,000 range achieved. Supportive staff.

- viii. Having ongoing issues with Federal money. Shorewood is non-compliant on all aspects of receiving. Many programs exist. Should this be re-evaluated to determine ways to benefit from it? Discussion ensues.
- ix. Early dismissal being discussed for curriculum planning – one Wednesday per month vs. every Wednesday.
- x. Bill and E&F committee have been having discussion about art instructional minutes – we may be under. Arch recommends a certain amount- exceptions made for more or less depending on un-mandated initiatives such as world language and technology – need 45 min per week ILO 60 min. Should we extend school day to achieve this? Need one hour per day if we adopt new math program. Lauren asks for some thoughts on this.
 - 1. Laura and Jane as educators – Absolutely increase minutes. Do at end of day. The reason for Laura and Jane's recommendation of extending the day is that teachers will have more time with students to teach the same amount of material.
 - 2. Tom points out – is it practical to freeze pay and extend day and expect teachers to work longer?
 - 3. Consider Logistics - Atwater letting out at 3:20
 - 4. St. Monica's lets out at 3:30.

Lauren elaborates on subject – discussion ensues.

General consensus is we are all willing to have a longer day and add minutes to the end of the day.

- xi. Stakeholders meeting coming up on May 20th and board plans it. Each committee head should feed something to Tom to overview. Tom/Lauren/Matt will begin planning for the meeting.

4. New Board Nominations – 7:30 PM

- a. No self nominations so far. Targeted recruitment next. Michele Weinschrott interested and Holly Ganther interested and would be a natural fit for marketing committee.
- b. Tom discusses that he could back off of Budget and Finance if someone is capable and interested.

5. Committee Reports – 7:41 PM

- a. Policy (Jane)- absent
- b. Education & Formation (Bill and Laura) – see minutes sent out prior to meeting.
 - i. Discussion about Self-portraits at Emerald Auction – perhaps continue next year under a suggested donation format. Suggestion to send home portraits that were not purchased.
 - ii. Discussion is going on about expanding art program.
 - iii. Art Exhibition Area-meeting with Mrs. Bailey to see how that can be realized.
 - iv. Library update – bar coding is complete.
 - v. Enrichment- Milwaukee Debate league funding looks promising.
 - vi. Forensics – Students recently participated in a 3-student tourney which the SRS kids did very well in – winning hands down.

(Dan Hull discussion occurs at this time – see below)

- c. Development (Michael and Lisa) – 8:45 PM
 - i. Current Annual Fund Gifts at \$140,000. Potential additional foundation gift on horizon of \$10,000. We have two months left and now beginning to fall behind last year's pace.
 - ii. 300 letters going out to non-parents signed by Tom. Additional letters going out to current parents who have not yet given. Class of '98 program with match and

anonymous match being tried and tested, also the class of '47 headed by Margaret Sankovitz.

iii. There are a reasonable amount of “Spring givers” still out there.

d. Marketing (Clark)- 8:55 PM

- i. Discussion has been ongoing for a neighborhood marketing push – such as door knob marketing for the 53211 Zip.
- ii. Alterra Coffee Redesign – Liam Callanan will rewrite a slogan for the bag.
- iii. Student Video’s on the website being discussed.
- iv. Movie night is in play – deciding what to play.
- v. Back on the drawing board for a meeting at the end of May after the stakeholders meeting.
- vi. Student website section--still constructing thought process on what to put into this section and who is going to monitor it. Specifically, we did test run uploading a video and as a result of its success, we feel confident that student videos could be part of the content on the student section of the website.
- vii. We are rethinking hosting a marketing event at the end of May that focuses more on recruitment of new members instead of just an "idea brainstorming" session..

e. Technology (Matt) – 9:05 PM

- i. Adopting a charter to look at bringing a sense of project management to adding-of-curriculum task. Needs to be a repository of where to record ongoing efforts.
- ii. Take time at the stakeholders meeting to explain the current effort of the SRS faculty to reorganize the curriculum to reflect the “21st Century Learner” standards. We will highlight the work being done with the 5th grade teachers and “Baseball” project as a way to illustrate our goals. The major point working with the 5th grade teachers and “Baseball” project to have them read their reports read into a Podcast. Point is to explain the changes occurring in the education model. Perhaps make it a multi-media presentation like “shift-happens”.
- iii. Find technology solutions for teachers to be more efficient.

f. Environment (Dan) 9:25 PM

- i. Upcoming Events with Library and Elevator Project
 1. Design done for both projects.
 2. Final doc review by Staff May 1.
 3. Solicitation of bids from GC’s May 8-26
 4. Bid review and recommendation to Parish Council May 27.
 5. Earliest construction start - June 13th.
 6. Duration for library – 10 weeks/ Elevator 15 weeks.
 7. Next year – security-doors/sound attenuation/ art exhibits/lighting/relocate art room- teachers lounge.
 8. The display area information is now turned over to Environment, which will work with Donna Bailey to execute the idea.

g. Budget and Finance (Tom) - 9:33PM

6. Dan Hull Report on First Communion and Intergenerational Community Building – 8:01PM

a. Concerns with program from Board–

- i. Should Catholic doctrine and the sacramental “heavy hitting” be done at school in an in-depth manner? Masses – done by children, etc. Should Non-Parish school kids be taught sacramental prep in Sunday school?
 1. Dan’s Response – When it comes to sacramental prep – it is a gift, it is not about what they know. Archbishop has decided to not give schools the job of sacramental preparation. The responsibility rests with the parish. The question is how we best prepare the kids in the parish for sacraments. Perhaps what should happen is the parish as a whole discuss

how to do it so it doesn't run two- tracks for catholic school kids and public school kids. There should be joint oversight of Parish-Parents/School/Religious Ed.

2. Margy Cain adds – in 18 years this is the first time it has been discussed - there has been no blessing for any kind of change over those years.
- ii. Are there duplicative efforts?
 1. Trying not to duplicate efforts. Have picked up a history and tradition that has been going on without drive for change. However, now if there is desire to create some change, now is the time. The decision making process are be beginning to change allowing for discussion between stakeholders and potential adjustments to the sacramental prep process. Conversation should be bigger – if a group would like to lead it then it should occur.
- iii. SAB should create focus group to take this issue forward for next year.
- iv. Community Building – In-light came and went and participation declined. But there may be other community-building opportunities such as the St Nicholas Day Event or Movies in the Parking Lot – or perhaps Trivia night or a St. Robert Day event. These events could be used to integrate catholic educational opportunities.

7. Home and School Report (Joe) –

- a. Claudia Mitchell designed new documents for signing up for volunteer events for 2009-10; going home this week in folders. Discussion about events and event chairs for next year; where are volunteers still needed. Reviewed auction (dollars close to last year) and other recent events and upcoming events.

8. Parish Council (Michelle) – Absent

9. New Business –

- a. Letter going home regarding health issues and the Swine Flu- hand washing discussion.

10. Next meeting – May 13th

Meeting Adjourned – 9:40 PM