

School Advisory Board Meeting
January 14, 2009
6:30 pm

Present: Fr. Dennis, Jane Connell, Laura Maly, Lauren Beckmann, Clark Gridley, Tom Zale, Dan Davis, Bill Schlise, Matt Hietpas, Joe O'Neill, Michelle Frazier, Lisa Lesjak, Jane Boland

Faculty member present: Mary Demet – Spanish

Call to Order and Prayer

Pastor's Report (Fr. Dennis)

- Sunday began the Parish Stewardship Campaign and pledge cards have gone out. The pledges so far have been good. The goal of \$1 million will stay the same and not increase this year reflecting the economic times. The Parish budgeting process will begin next month.
- A student was baptized during an all school Mass which was a beautiful experience for all students and all in attendance.
- Father asked Lisa to give an update on FIOF: pledges have reached over \$1, 082,000.00 and are not quite done. The steering committee will meet again Monday to strategize on reaching more people. Participation need not be limited to large donors and they want to stress that all gifts large and small are welcome.

Principals Report (Lauren Beckmann)

- Registration for 2009-1010 is underway and 95 current families have already responded. Some of the primary grades may already be full and there seems to be a good understanding of this. There is 100% younger sibling enrollment with nine siblings entering k4.
- There have been several staffing changes which have taken time and effort to fill: There is a new science teacher for the middle school who has taken up his position smoothly. A position was just offered to and accepted by a candidate to fill the middle school Literature/English/Religion position. A long term sub is needed for French to cover a (Mrs. Moriarity's) maternity leave and interviews are going on now. A new Special Needs Aide position has been filled.
- The current 7th grade will be consolidated into one 8th grade class next year due to two seventh graders leaving this year.

Home and School Liaison (Joe O'Neill)

- Joe reports that at the last Home and School meeting behavior guidelines for H&S sponsored events were re-affirmed.

- Upcoming Home and School events were reviewed.
- The Emerald Auction raffle will happen but expectations and prizes will be scaled back a bit due to the current economy.

Parish Council Liaison (Joe O'Neill/ Michelle Frazier)

- Much of the Parish Council meeting discussions continue to revolve around FIOF.
- There was a very nice senior Christmas party.
- The joint meeting between Holy Family and St. Robert Parish Councils went well. There will be two joint meetings per year for now.
- Claire Anderson is looking for members for the Evangelization committee. Ushers and alter boys/girls are also needed.
- The Time and Talent project is up and running again. Two members of Parish Council, Lorre Inda and Debbie. Scheid, will be putting together a new parish list.
- The St. Nick's party was a great success!

Policy (Jane Boland/Lauren Beckmann)

- Mary Demet is working on a plagiarism policy.
- Jane and Lauren will meet over the next weeks to begin drafts of the emergency policies.

Education and Formation (Bill Schlise/Laura Maly)

- There is a gradual re-opening of the library with the books for the younger students (K4&5, 1st grade) now on the Follett software system and ready for checkout.
- Discussion at the Ed. and Formation meetings continues to center on integrating arts into the curriculum, talent development and extra curricular activities.
- There will be a science fair exhibit in the gym and a student art show in Reilly Hall during the Grandparents Reception in April. They will remain up for conferences.
- Lisa L. asked about the results of the survey that went out to parents of students who have graduated. Ed. and Formation will follow up with this and report back.

Development (Lisa Lesjak)

- Samples of the Annual Fund mailing were passed around.
- The annual Fund is a bit behind last year's numbers at this time but still very good at over \$115K!!

Marketing (Clark Gridley)

- Current meeting have focused on the upcoming Open House scheduled for Jan 25th.
- The "Ask Us Why" sign campaign will go on beginning this weekend with beautiful new signs! The "opt - out" program is working with very few who did.

Budget and Finance (Tom Zale and Lauren Beckmann)

- A draft budget proposal was passed out to the group and reviewed. Many items in the budget are fixed and cannot be reduced while others such as salaries, health care costs

and books continue to rise. The amount that the Parish will be able to contribute will not be more for the 2009-2010 school year than the current school year. A discussion followed about costs and tuition increases. Tom will be looking at overall percentage increases as well as the tuition reduction for multiple children in one family in order to achieve a balanced budget in the fairest manner possible.

- Removing the cost difference for students who take Band and String Ensemble as music elective was also discussed. A potential solution is to have the middle school tuition slightly higher than the elementary grades which is done at many schools.

Other Business:

- Some discussion went on regarding feedback and comments from the parent survey sent out in November. There were some complaints about the Principal's Pen but most SAB members present like the tone and content.

Technology (Matt Hietpas)

- No report at this time.

Environment (Dan Davis)

- Dan asked Lauren to reiterate the purpose of the library renovation. He followed with a presentation and overview of a beautiful conceptual drawing of the potential new space.
- By the end of April we should know if the funds from the FIOF campaign will be available and, if so, the work could begin on a very tight schedule over the summer. For this to happen the design process will need to proceed over the next three months and the project put out to bid. The parish requires 3 proposals from 3 different contractors. The time frame on all of this is very tight and Dan has been working very hard and putting in many hours (per Lauren).
- Work on the accessibility issues is also underway with elevator sites being looked at – specifically at the Reilly Hall entrance. There are many issues and constraints involved but work will go on!