

School Advisory Board Meeting Minutes of 12-November-2008

Present: Lauren Beckmann, Jane Boland, Jane Connell, Michael DeMichele, Fr. Dennis Dirx, Michelle Frazier, Clark Gridley, Matt Hietpas, Lisa Lesjak, Matt Linn, Joe O'Neill, Bill Schlise, and Tom Zale, along with faculty representatives Kathy Skopek and Kori Staab.

Meeting began with a prayer at 6:35 p.m.

SMART Board demonstration: Ms. Skopek and Mrs. Staab graciously illustrated a number of the features of the new SMART Board technology (newly deployed in several school classrooms), explained its benefits and fielded questions. The chief benefits are:

- A. A wide range of content can very easily be brought to bear in lessons, with the option of calling up even more, as needed during lessons, via the built-in internet connection.
- B. Excellent lesson ideas and content already developed for SMART board users and, presumably, improvements in these always in the works.
- C. Students become acquainted with and begin their mastery of tools essential to information literacy. Their participation in impromptu information searches introduces them to on-line search techniques and, in due time, the problem of evaluating sources.(--ed.)

A couple of concerns were raised:

- D. "Screen time," something we are often reminded to limit for our children, is *increased* with the use of Smart boards. Ms. Skopek distinguished *active* participation in Smart board lessons from *passive* entertainment available on both TV and internet.
- E. It was asked that some careful accounting be made, after perhaps a year's experience, of the things that are lost in replacing old classroom technologies and techniques with this new one, and a frank evaluation of whether these losses are tolerable, or should be made up in other ways. (E.g. Will students' engagement with the screen significantly reduce their face-to-face interactions with each other and/or the teacher? If so, at what cost?)

Pastor's report (Fr. Dennis): The *Faith In Our Future* information packets are out to parishioners. Sermons of the next three weekends will be dedicated to further explaining the campaign and promoting the parish interests that will be funded through it. All are encouraged to reflect carefully and prayerfully about their gift prior to commitment weekend, December 6th and 7th.

Principals' report (Lauren):

- A. Report cards go home this Friday
- B. The parent-student-teacher conference aims to serve families with multiple participants. The Middle School team of teachers will meet as a group with participants.

- C. Lauren attended a Catholic School Law seminar recently, the relevant highlights of which included:
1. Catholic schools fall under contract, not constitutional, law. And thus, agreements about policy must be signed by parents.
 2. Epinephrine pens (containing emergency medication for allergic reactions) must be carried *on the child*. Some additional study of this issue will be made by the Policy Committee before a new policy is drafted.
 3. The rising incidence of peanut allergies makes a uniform *peanut control policy* necessary.
 4. Student behavior that damages a school's reputation, regardless of location or time, is punishable under the school's uniform discipline policy.
 5. Use of the school's logo must be approved by the principal.
 6. School employees should never transport students by automobile.
- D. Events at the recent Father-Son Packer Chili have made clear the need for standard codes both of conduct and of supervision. Home and School will be developing these.
- E. School Survey: Extra questions were suggested on the following topics:
1. electives
 2. kindergarten
 3. homework expectations
 4. after-school enrichment

And furthermore:

5. It was agreed that the question regarding alignment of the curriculum with diocese standards be cut.
6. Toward increasing the response rate, surveys will be offered both at conferences and in a school-wide e-mail with a link to the survey monkey.
7. A disclaimer about the school's authority in athletics programming will be included in the survey.

Committee Reports

Home and School (Joe)

- A. Rummage Sales proceeds were above \$14,000.
- B. We are all encouraged to purchase Spiritwear. Sales could use a little boost.
- C. The Home and School revenue picture is positive.
- D. Wayne Tews installed a new PA system in the gym.
- E. The magazine drive is currently under budget by \$4000. A pre-holiday sales push is requested.
- F. The H&S nest egg is in tiered bonds—no stocks.

Education and Formation (Bill)

- A. Currently in its first formal round of Strategic Planning, the committee is working at formalizing its process of drafting strategic plan initiatives and

- cooperating with principal and faculty in implementing them.
- B. Of its list of current draft initiatives, the committee focused on:
1. Elevating Visual Arts in the Curriculum—this is divided into 2 parts:
 - a. improving instruction in formal art topics
 - b. using art to deepen students’ understanding of ideas in other academic areas, particularly social studies, but also others
 2. Cultivating Interest and Talent Development
 - a. exploring debate club
 - b. developing a collection of resources for forensics performers and finding funding for a “thank you” gift for forensics coaches
 - c. Scrabble club is going well.
 - d. Looking into Checkmate chess club membership
 3. Creating Cross-curricular units of study—researching successful examples of these
 4. Cultivating Culture of Tolerance and Care—monitoring the progress of support groups, one focusing on diversity and another on special needs students.

Development (Lisa)

- A. Annual Fund
 1. Donations/commitments are ahead of usual pace.
 2. A new mail solicitation including new marketing material is out.
 3. More classes of constituents are being recognized and solicited.
- B. Another memorial gift dedicated to the media resource center has been added to George Pandl’s gift for this purpose.
- C. A new budget line has been created—called the “Angel Fund”—to be used for families experiencing unusual hardship. This will make a nice addition to the list of targeted donation options.

Policy (Jane B.) Policy items were covered in Principal’s report.

Marketing and Recruitment (Clark)

- A. Holly Ganther is a talented and experienced addition to the team and may represent, in person, the Ganther marketing power-duo at committee meetings.
- B. Web site tweaking continues.
- C. A new yard sign strategy in the recruitment effort is being contemplated. The old signs, now looking worse for wear, are thought to have been effective.

Technology (Matt H.)

- A. The Geek squad has three recruits that bring considerable talent in the areas of project conception and implementation.
- B. Bill Brousseau’s (generously donated) tech support efforts are superb and vital to a variety of critical school functions. Vicki Bennett is ably filling the gaps in Bill’s schedule.

- C. Some sense of the potential financial impact of IT support on the overall school budget is thought to be needed. Toward this end, the committee will draft on an IT Support budget.

Environment (Lauren for Dan)

If the goal of beginning construction of the Media Resource Center is to begin next summer break, the work of getting construction drawings and plan approval (especially regarding classification of the room) must begin by the new year, if not sooner. Dan has devoted considerable time to FIOF project planning up to now, but will be turning his attention to this soon.

Budget and Finance (Tom)

Enrollment and Salary projections are in the works.

Parish Council (Michelle)

- A. Lifelong Faith Formation literature, including the Religious Education Schedule, and etc., will be widely available soon.
- B. Annual Stewardship drive is postponed to January to make room for the Faith In Our Future campaign.
- C. First joint Parish Council meeting with Holy Family Parish will occur next Month, at which topics in collaboration will be discussed.

Next meeting is 10-December.

Respectfully submitted by Bill Schlise