

St. Patrick's School Board Minutes January 14, 2008

Present: Gina Higgins, Kimberly Fangman, Lisa Meyer, Pat Adler, Don Ridder, Julie Kaup, Cindy Engel, Mike Socha, Steve Morrissey, and Wendy Anderson

We began with a prayer and approved last month's minutes.

Vision Statement: After discussion and revision, we approved a vision statement for our school. The new vision statement reads:

ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT

St. Patrick's Catholic School is an accredited school community committed to providing an exceptional education. Our school promotes academic excellence, fosters leadership, and instills the values embraced by our Catholic faith. Students are challenged to be good stewards by developing their gifts and serving others. In partnership with the parish, the teachers and staff celebrate the sacredness of each child. Our students are prepared to live with integrity, confidence, and abiding faith in Christ.

(APPROVED 1/14/08)

Home and School: Julie reported that the Christmas Elves program went well, raising over \$4,200 for staff gifts. Scrip in December was also strong, with over \$46,000 purchased. Home and School's next big project is the St. Patrick's parade. Three hundred kids are expected, and arrangements for a team of Belgian horses and a wagon have been made.

Adult Formation: Julie reported there were over 100 women interested in forming new Moms' groups. The committee is also interested in creating a group for dads and sons. Three bible studies are currently active. In addition, Adult Formation is ironing out plans for RF and school children to help deliver and serve meals to the Sienna Francis House during Lent. We will be delivering food every week during Lent, and twenty kids per week will be needed.

RF: Gina reported that the RF committee was in the process of planning Lenten activities, including the Seder Meal, which will be open to RF and school kids. Jan Martin will be meeting with the committee to discuss budgeting concerns. First Reconciliation has been rescheduled for January 26, and volunteers are still needed to help with the reception. A Confirmation retreat was recently held, and Liturgy of the Word is going well. Volunteers are still needed. Don suggested that the Moms' groups may be able to help coordinate volunteers for Liturgy of the Word.

Parish Pastoral Council: Wendy reported that construction on the new addition is going well. We're about \$200,000 shy of our Capital Campaign goal. This year, our parish celebrates our 140th birthday, and activities are planned throughout the year, including a corn beef and cabbage dinner on Palm Sunday and a parish picnic and ice cream social in September. The

committee will ask each major organization in the parish to sponsor specific activities. Fish Fries begin February 8.

Finance: Mike reported that the parish is on track with the budget for the year. Parish collections grew in November. The committee has decided that tuition assistance for the school will be handled differently. A tuition assistance group will be formed. This group will include the Finance Committee representative from the School Board, a Men's Group officer, a Finance Committee member, and the business manager (in a non-voting position). Applications for tuition assistance will be submitted by June 1; Tuition Assistance Committee members will meet and determine allocations. Letters will be sent to applicants by July 1, and responses will be required by July 15. The group will review tuition assistance requests with the names blacked out. Families entering the school year mid-year will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Board members discussed whether or not Don should have approval in who receives aid. We all agreed that the new tuition assistance procedures should be committed to paper and presented at the next meeting. Lisa and Cindy (the new Financial Committee reps) will present the School Board's thoughts at the next Finance meeting. We also agreed to determine (through Gina) how many RF families request assistance. (No assistance is currently offered for RF students, although tuition is waived for families that volunteer.)

Mike said the Finance Committee is still also considering how to improve cash flow for the school. Don suggested that instead of raising registration fees, beginning tuition withdrawal in August rather than September might be a better idea. Discussion will continue on this issue.

Facilities: Don reported that construction continues to go well.

Development: Cindy reported that the dinner auction will be recruiting funds for a new phone system for the parish and school. Sixty cards are still out in the Capital Campaign, which is \$200,000 short. John Dunn and Father Ron will be calling select individuals to bring the campaign to a close. Also, new parishioners are in the process of being contacted. Cindy said the Development Committee is in the process of looking for new projects since the Capital Campaign is winding down.

Safety: Steve said there has been no Safety Committee meeting since the last Board meeting. However, there are still concerns about parking lot procedures, particularly on RF days. A Safety Meeting will be planned to discuss these issues.

Continuous Improvement Program: Don reported that continuous improvement surveys have been finalized and will be mailed out January 17 and should be returned by January 31st. We are surveying the entire school this time.

Principal's Report: Don reported:

- The events for Catholic Schools Week have been planned.
- The Symposium for the Archdiocese committee has met and will meet with Father Gilg on February 13. Future meetings are also planned to pool ideas about how to promote Catholic schools in the Archdiocese.

- A new math program is proposed to enhance conceptual and computational skills. The Board approved the new program.
- We are currently looking for a Language Arts program to enhance and improve our current curriculum. Our goal is to implement a program that can better serve different levels of readers.
- We are forming an advisory program for our sister school, St. Mary's in Uganda.
- Seventy-six people have signed up for the blood drive, but Don is hoping for 100 participants. The drive will be held January 23 from 1:00 to 7:00.
- Seventeen girls have signed up for Locks of Love.
- The elderly will again be invited for Ash Wednesday mass. New this year, they will enjoy a chime choir performance after mass.
- Students are currently writing their own books. Awards will be given to exceptional "authors."

Other News: Julie mentioned that girl students wore a variety of inconsistent leggings and pants when waiting outside. Don mentioned he was OK with this since the leggings and pants are removed once children enter the building.

Lisa asked if a Guidance Counselor was available for students. Don said he currently serves as the Guidance Counselor, and we have plans to include one in future budgets.

The next meeting will be February 11 at 6:30 in the math/science room.

We closed with a prayer.

Respectfully,

Kimberly Fangman
Secretary