

St. Mary Catholic School Advisory Board Minutes March 9, 2010 -Approved

Call to Order at 7:01pm by Mary McLoughlin:

- Attendees: Fr. Donald Franks, Carlton Rider, Cindy Albert, Ben Boyden, Kellie Boyden, Jane Dodds (Fisher Catholic Rep), Elaine Hartman (Pope John XXIII Rep), John McGraw (St. Mary Parish Rep), Mary McLoughlin, Milea Quaintance (St. Bernadette Rep), Diane Stuckey, Jean Robertson, Angie Seimer (Home and School President), Kathy Wotruba
- Faculty Attendees: LeAnn Lipp, Kathleen Van Evra
- Excused: Kaylene Corcoran, Jamie Bryant (St. Mark Parish Rep)
- Guests: George, Kim, and Jonathan Roback

Opening Prayer: Diane Stuckey

Approval of Jan. Minutes: Ben Boyden motioned. Diane Stuckey seconded. The board approved.

Reports:

- Budget Report: The report was presented and summarized. Student receipts are in good standing.
- Pastor's Report: Pastoral Sacramental Liturgical Faith Formation Meeting members met and planned Holy Week and Easter activities. Other parish activities are outlined in the Administrator's report.
- 1. Administrator's Report: Elizabeth Ficocelli (Catholic author) visited with the students on Jan 20th. Catholic Schools Week had many activities including featuring St. Mary School on the local *Town and Country Show*, an all-school Mass, a presentation by Jimmy Cordle, and family lunches for each grade level. The Sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop Frederick Campbell was celebrated on March 2nd. The second grade students celebrated their first Sacrament of Reconciliation on Feb 25th. Ventriloquist Mark Wade presented a self-esteem program to the K-5 students on Feb 23rd. Fisher Catholic placement tests were given to registered students. Registration information was shared with St. Bernadette 5th graders. Slovenian guitarist Mak Grgic, who will be performing at this summer's Lancaster Festival, performed on March 3rd. The first Open House, on Feb. 21st, was successful due to hard work by the Advisory Board, Home and School Association, faculty, staff, and students. Mr. Rider returned to work at the end of Feb after recovering from his surgery. The Scripps Spelling Bee student representatives performed very well (five total) with the top student, Hunter Wotruba, placing in 3rd place. Terra Nova testing revealed math scores at or above the Diocesan average. These scores are improved over previous math scores prior to the Simple Solutions program.
- Faculty Report: The faculty enjoyed working with everyone on the Open House and expressed their gratitude for everyone's hard work. The Spring Floral Sale is being planned.
- St. Bernadette Report: Home and School is improving their website. COSI on Wheels was at the school on March 5th. The Blood Drive was extremely successful. A communication survey is being done. A Father-Daughter Dance will take place on April 23rd. Tuition for the 2010-2011 school-year for non-parishioner is \$3650 for grades 1-5 and \$1900 for kindergarten. Tuition for parishioners is \$2400 for grades 1-5, \$1300 for kindergarten, \$1050 for 4-year-old preschool, and \$750 for 3-year-old preschool. Confirmation will take place on March 18th.
- St. Mark Report: **Family Life Speaker Series** opened on Feb. 21st with Stacey Scarmack who spoke on "the Body as the Temple of the Holy Spirit." The second week was well attended for the Sisters of the Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Future events are planned. First Penance was celebrated on March 7th. March 17th will be the St. Patrick's Day Celebration with mass potluck dinner and a DVD performance of Celtic music. **St. Mark Lenten Penance Service** will be on March 23rd at 7pm. An **Easter Cantata** will be March 28th, Palm Sunday evening at 7pm. This presentation is free and all are encouraged to attend.
- Pope John XXIII Report: 10th Anniversary Celebrations have been underway including a spaghetti dinner and commemorative brick sale. Monsignor Frecker will be taking a tour of Italy this summer and all are welcome to join him.

- Fisher Catholic Report: The music program is making great strides. A vocal/band concert will be held on March 10th and is free to the public. Tuition for the 2010-2011 school-year will be \$5200 for participating parish students and \$5500 for non-participating students. The 2010-2011 school calendar was announced. Renovations to the bathrooms and resurfacing of the parking lot are planned. A new fundraising policy was approved that will streamline fundraisers and equitably distribute volunteer hours among all activities and sports. The Wellness Committee held a follow up to the mandatory drug and alcohol awareness meeting with Cmdr. Eric Brown. Band parents had a successful pancake breakfast to raise money for new uniforms. Student Council held two dances. The school budget is set and the teachers will receive a raise next year. 57 students will graduate this year and so far 61 students will be incoming next fall.
- Parish Council Report: There was no meeting last month due to the inclement weather.
- Home and School Report: The group is working with Mrs. Lindsey on running the Book Fair. Funding for next year's Accelerated Math Program involving grades 1-8 was approved and a presentation will be made to the faculty. This will be a part of the curriculum and will supplement the Simple Solutions program. Please see the Home and School monthly minutes posted on the website for more information.

Old Business:

1. External Validation Team Update: On March 16th and 17th, five educators outside of the school will interview faculty members and students. They will visit classrooms and approve the school's goals prior to their announcement to the school community.
2. Parent/Family Surveys: Some parents indicated a desire for spring parent-teacher conferences. Currently spring conferences are set up on an as-needed basis.
3. Code of Conduct for Coaches: Mr. Rider stated that an athletic board should have the responsibility for creating such a policy. Since there is no athletic board that currently exists, St. Mary may look to partner with Fisher Catholic or pursue the formation of an official athletic department within St. Mary. Diane Stuckey motioned to have an ad hoc committee formed to assist with advising the school on this matter. Jane Dodds seconded. The board approved the motion. Mary will follow through.

New Business:

1. Nomination Committee: The committee will only solicit applications if there are not enough. Communication and advertising will include announcements in the parish bulletin, parish website, school website, Thursday announcements, and email. Applications are due on March 23rd. An informational meeting for candidates will be held on March 30th. The candidates will be presented to the board at the April 13th meeting. Voting will take place via Thursday Folder ballots at the beginning of May. Parish voting will occur the weekend of May 16th.
2. Open House Feedback: Teacher presence was very valuable. At least 16 families and 21 prospective students visited the school that day. The day was extremely successful and the student volunteers did a great job. Thank you to all involved for their hard work!
3. National Volunteer Recognition Week is the 3rd week of April. Mr. Rider checked the school calendar and approved a reception to be held one evening the week of April 19-23. The Hospitality Committee is coordinating the event.

Close of Meeting at 8:34pm: Kellie Boyden motioned. Elaine Hartman seconded. Mary McLoughlin adjourned.

Next meeting: April 13th at 7:00 pm

Submitted by Jean Robertson, St. Mary School Advisory Board Secretary