

March 15, 2010 School Board meeting

Members in attendance –

At Large Members: Steve Siy, Peter Goodman, Karen Coon, Eileen Carter, Jean Wright, Tim Flanner, Matt Fricker, Jim Swiderski

Ex-Officio Members: Principal Jayme Hartman; Home & School Liaison - Mary Cunniff; Parish Council Liaison – Larry Francione; Teacher Representative – Christine Weichart

Guests: Jim and Evan Woloszyk

Members not in attendance – John Gatto

1. Opening prayer – Meeting began at 6:45 p.m. with a prayer.
2. Open Forum – None requested.
3. Liaison Reports
 - a. Home & School Mary Cunniff reported:
 1. They are in need of a vice – president(s) & treasurer for 2010/2011 – Fat Tuesday Paczki event was a huge success;
 2. Book Fair sales down from previous years – They are looking at why this might be and are considering several options for next year;
 3. Home & School is working on creating their Guidelines as directed under the new Parish committee system. They will use both their current By-Laws and current practices to create those Guidelines with Doug Miller's help;
 4. They presented the \$30,000.00 request from School Board for contribution toward the operating budget for tuition offset at last week's meeting; votes are due back to School Office by 3/19/10. Will send note to Peter Goodman & Jayme with the outcome of the vote, and will publish it in the next SJV Weekly.
 - b. Faculty report – Christine Weichart reported: Primary grades had a very successful Read Across America week with many fun activities and a parade.
 - c. Parish Council – Larry Francione reported:
 1. Mike Cekanor is the new Parish Trustee for the next two years – replacing Greg Van Winkle who has completed his term;
 2. Stewardship presentation at the last Parish council meeting concluded that the Faith in our Future campaign has had a significant impact on general giving to the Parish. The total amount of giving is quite high - 2.8 million dollars have been collected over the last year, but that is a combined total. That is the largest amount collected in a single year. Stewardship also broke down giving by group. School families group and Ministries group were top two giving groups.
 3. The budget was approved as indicated in last Sunday's bulletin in Fr. Ken's letter. The \$60,000.00 amount from Home & School

included the amount previously committed from the Bids monies for textbooks in the 2010/2011 school year.

4. Several recommendations came out of budget process – School Board Finance committee try to figure out special donations, e.g. home & School donations, for next two years; the current cap of 33 1/3% on what the Parish contributes to the School budget out of the Stewardship monies collected by the Parish may be reviewed.;
 5. They discussed the Parish Strategic Planning meeting of 3/2/10 They will gather the ideas and comments from that event and send a packet of information to the participants as to what will be the next step. Will also make a presentation to Parish council at some future meeting about the information gathered and what they propose be done to further the objective of developing the concepts contained in the Mission Statement.
4. President's Report – Steve reported
- a. 8th grade reunion meeting occurred on February 16th, and it went well. There were no girls at the meeting to provide a perspective on what their experience at DSHA has been, but they had boys from both MUHS and BC, and did receive written responses from some girls at BC & DSHA. They had good things and bad things to say. They felt that the math & science preparation was strong, and that generally they were about the same as their peers from other grade schools in most respects. Felt that the writing and grammar preparation was weak, and that the biggest area in which they felt underprepared was in taking comprehensive subject exams similar to semester finals. They would have preferred to have accelerated math during the day, rather than after school, and they didn't like feeling as though the junior high was not part of the school, e.g. as in the removal of the junior high students from participation in the Christmas program.
 - b. Principal Search committee – Parish Human resources committee sets up the search committee based upon guidelines set by the Archdiocese. Membership as of 3/15/10 is Nora Hauser, Hr committee rep.; Fr. Ken & Fr. Philip; JoAnn Cekanor as Home & School representative ; Jim Hessling as a Parish staff member; a to be named Principal from a catholic school in our area, and possibly a community member not involved in the school or parish.
5. Principal's report – Jayme reported
- a. At the Regional Spelling Bee, February 18th we were represented by Maddie Keyes who did a great job.
 - b. On February 23, the 7th and 8th grade students and teachers attended the Mike Domtritz "May I Kiss You?" presentation regarding social behavior for middle school age students.
 - c. Wednesday, February 24th the American Heart Association came and gave a presentation for the students to kick off Jump Rope for Heart run by Mr.

Jackson. The students were well behaved and did a great job of demonstrating their rope jumping skills.

- d. Conferences were February 24-25 and were scheduled in conjunction with the Book Fair.
- e. The in-service on February 26th began with work on Marzano as well as the progress the schools have made using PALS and the QRI testing regarding reading instruction. The afternoon was spent with teachers working on discussing grade level standards for math, science, SS and religion.
- f. CHAMPS organized the pep rally on Monday, March 1st for the 8th grade girl's team who was invited to the Padre Serra Tournament. Laura Hauser swooshed a half court shot to win the shooting competition! Way to go, Laura!
- g. Reconciliation was offered for students in grades 3-8 on Wednesday, March 3rd. This is the second offering of this sacrament for the year.
- h. ITBS testing was conducted for grades 3, 5, and 7 from March 1-12th. The results will be used to continue professional development and curriculum work for SJV. Results will be returned in mid to late April
- i. The annual State Fair was a huge success. Although Ms. Bremer was home sick, the hard work the students put into their projects was displayed well for parents, siblings, friends and family members to see on Tuesday, March 9th.
- j. An analysis of the current Math Curriculum for the Middle School was done by Mrs. Kaminski. It was to assess how SJV stands in relation to the the Archdiocesan requirements for math topics that need to be covered for each of the 3 grades in Middle School. Conclusion is that by the end of the first semester of the 8th grade when the accelerated students are offered the extra lessons after school, Mrs. Kaminski has already covered most of the required math topics with everyone. By the end of the 8th grade, all students in the 8th grade have been introduced to about 2/3 of the topics considered to be "advanced" topics by the Arch. Those students attending the after school lessons are primarily taught the other 1/3 of the accelerated topics as defined by the Archdiocesan requirements for the math curriculum. Jayme to send a letter addressing some of the issues raised by those who attended the Middle School Listening session, and will explain these findings regarding the Math program further.
- k. Writing program – The results of the Study conducted by Renae MacCudden have to be approved by her instructor before she can share them with Jayme & the rest of the staff; essentially she looked for what are defined as "best practices" in current teaching of writing, and found that each of our teachers were utilizing at least some of those practices. However, she found little consistency among the teachers as to which practices are being enforced. She will present a plan that will educate our teachers on all of the "best practices" and how to implement them into our curriculum.

6. Committee reports
 - a. Advancement – Nothing new to report.
 - b. Development – Nothing new to report.
 - c. Finance - budget approved; 7.5% tuition inc.; Mrs. Scheunke retiring; all teachers being offered a contract; enrollment for 2010/2011 school year is projected at 512; salary for the strings teacher is not being covered by fees collected and the parish agreed to cover the difference this year, but not clear what will be done next year; H&S \$30,000.00 is a one time and can't guarantee that they will have it to offer in the future, or that the membership will continue to approve the use of funds for tuition offset. Peter wants to continue work of eliminating School Board reliance on donations from Home & School and other one time donations.
 - d. Long Range Planning – met on 2/16/10, took in questionnaires returned re: issues of concern, listed and weighted them. Committee will use these responses as a spring board for putting survey together, next meeting not set yet.
 - e. Policy – The new School Board Guidelines were approved by Parish Trustee, Doug Miller. Will need to review them each year and make changes to reflect current practices of the Board.

7. New Business – Discernment process underway – contact any one who we think would be good encourage them to put in their names
8. Old Business - Strategic Planning meeting on 3/2/10 – Goal is to see what Parish should work on in coming years to improve and prosper; the small groups were a good cross section of the Parish membership; the Parish will gather info and interesting ideas presented at the first meeting and send to those that participated. Will continue process after the assessment of information gathered at the first meeting.

9. Announcements - Jayme made the following announcements
 - a. Fr. Len going to be charged criminally in relation to missing Parish funds and property – details to follow from Waukesha Co. in near future.
 - b. She is preparing a letter to the Middle School parents to address the issues raised by last listening session. In this letter she will address the issues of schedule, backpacks, language arts curriculum, accelerated Math, and a Webgrader bookmark process explanation Letter to be sent when all information gathered.

10. Closing Prayer - Meeting concluded at 8:55 p.m. with a prayer led by Steve.
11. Next meeting – April 12, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. – Common Leadership Night to begin with prayer in Church.