

10/12/09 School Board Meeting

1. Opening Prayer / Announcements: The meeting began with a prayer service in the Church for Common Leadership Night at which representatives from all six of the Standing Committees were in attendance.

In attendance at the School board meeting were: President Steve Siy; Principal Jayme Hartman; Ex Officio members Teacher Representatives Linda Okruhlica and Barb Novy; Ex Officio members Home & School Co-Presidents Mary Cunniff and Christine Keyes; Members at Large Karen Coon, Peter Goodman, Eileen Carter, Tim Flanner, Jean Wright, Matt Fricker and Jim Swiderski. Fr. Ken Knippel arrived at about 6:45.

Excused: Ex Officio member Parish Council Liaison Larry Francione and Member at Large John Gatto

2. Reflection: The School Board meeting began in Room P203 at 6:45. Steve Siy led the group in a period of reflection and faith sharing centered around the readings from the Payer Service and the Questions with which we were left at the end of the service.
3. Approval of Minutes / Open Forum
 - Approval of Minutes from 9/14 meeting was discussed and minutes were approved.
 - Open Forum: No one presented to School Board with an issue for Open Forum
4. Liaison Reports
 - Parish Council; No oral report. See Parish Council minutes for meeting of 9/14/09.
 - Home and School Committee; Christine reported that since last School Board meeting, Home & School conducted the New Parent coffee at Mary Cunniff's house and has received good comments and feedback from those in attendance. Also, the Parent Programs committee organized and ran the parents & teachers evening at the Venice Club, which was well attended. VIP Day is set for Friday 10/16, and they are trying a new format, so they would like any feedback. Next meeting is set for Wednesday, October 21 at 7:00 p.m.
 - Faculty Report; Mrs. Okruhlica reported that the teachers attended a workshop presentation on Thursday 10/8/09 with many of other schools. This workshop was suited to enhance the teachers' understanding of Marzano's strategies in the classroom. Also each year every teacher creates or updates their individual professional development plan which lists goals and objectives for their classroom.

5. President's Report

- New Member In Service / Orientation; Jim Swiderski attended the Archdiocesan training session for new School Board members at St. Mary's School in West Bend on 9/28/09. Jim reported that approximately 50 School Board members, primarily from the northern parishes in the Archdiocese, attended the orientation session. The in-service focused on the proper role of the School Board, the need to establish and constantly assess annual goals and objectives, and the importance of obtaining membership from outside the school community on School Board. Finally, St. Agnes' School Board members who attended the in-service sent their well wishes to Principal Jayme Hartmann.

6. Principal's report; Jayme reported the following:

- At each of the Masses on Sunday 9/28/09, Jayme gave a "thank you" and a brief report of what the "Faith in Our Future" funds were used to accomplish and then held an Open House and offered tours of the school after the 11:00 Mass. About 100 people, including current school families and alumni families, went through the school.
- During the month of September and the first few weeks of October several area high schools have visited SJV to promote their schools and what they have to offer to the 7th & 8th grade students. Among those who have visited are MUHS, DSHA, Catholic Memorial and Dominican.
- In September the 5K, 1st and 2nd grade teachers administered the PALS reading tests to their students, and the 3rd through 8th grade teachers administered the QRI to their students. The results of these tests are being analyzed, and once complete the teachers will develop improvement goals and strategies. The results of the ITBS scores are also used in creating the reading curriculum goals and improvement strategies and changes in reading instruction.
- The playground and lunchroom supervisors held their first meeting of the school year on 9/29/09. The discussion covered a variety of topics of concern for the supervisors. Communication went out to the teachers regarding some concerns so that they are supporting the supervisors in the classroom and at the morning recesses.
- On Thursday, 10/8/09, the teachers attended an all day in-service presented by Dr. Pam Robbins. Dr. Robbins' presentation related the Marzano instructional strategies to our classrooms and how we teach and assess students. The presentation was a follow up to the Marzano book the teachers read over the summer and been discussing at the staff meetings.

7. Committee Reports

- Advancement: Eileen reported that they had a great first meeting. The new members of the committee include lots of young parents with new ideas, including new marketing ideas. They discussed the use of the Archdiocesan marketing materials. They discussed the possibility of targeting neighborhoods that are areas that were in the St. Luke's district.
 - Development : No report. Jean is in the process of contacting possible members.
- Finance: Peter reported that the committee is beginning the process of budget review. The challenges for formulating next year's budget are that enrollment is below what was budgeted for the last two years (2008/2009 & 2009/2010), and that some assumptions were built into budget that may not pan out as the year goes on, i.e. stewardship numbers are below budget.
- Long Range Planning: Tim reported that they will have their first meeting Thursday, 10/15 at 7:45 a.m. He hopes that at that meeting they will be able to finalize committee goals and description. The committee has 11 members at this time, with all grade levels represented.
- Policy: Karen reported that members need to look at the School Board Guidelines that were previously sent to all members of the School Board. Will communicate by email on questions or proposed changes. Parish Council would like final version before end of October, but if we can't resolve changes by email, we will take final action at the November School Board meeting. Members were asked to pay particular attention to the provision relating to possibility of seeking a closed meeting on issues of a sensitive nature. Policy committee also decided to make a recommendation that position of President-elect should be kept under the new Committee structure.

8. New Business:

- Election for position of President-elect – Steve explained that while we had previously decided not to continue the position of President –elect under the new Committee structure, a discussion was held at the Policy Committee meeting when formulating the School Board Guidelines. After some discussion, decision was made to keep position, as it takes a year to get bearings and better understand position of President. The members who are eligible to be elected to that position are the current 2nd year members at large. Eileen Carter was discerned to the position, and will serve as President-elect for the 2009/2010 school year, and will assume position of President at the June meeting. We will then discern for the position of President-elect at the June meeting based upon the eligibility and discernment guidelines to be set forth by Parish Council later this year.
- Recent Grad Reunion /Survey Night: Steve suggested possibility of inviting recent grads back to an evening of socializing and to solicit their feedback on what they felt prepared for

in high school and what they felt was lacking in their preparations. Discussion also concerned possibility of inviting high school students to an evening with 7th & 8th grade students to offer advice on what to expect when they go to high school. After lengthy discussion, the issue was taken under advisement for further exploration and consideration. Jayme reported that she believes that St. Mary's Elm Grove does something of this nature with parents of recent grads. Steve has talked with MUHS & DSHA to determine their impression of the preparedness of SJV students in relation to other entering freshmen and has found that the schools into which we feed do not track progress of students by the school from which they came. Steve will follow up with St. Mary's Elm Grove & report next month.

- January Middle School Listening session: We will go forward with another Parent Listening session in January. Will select date at November meeting. Advancement committee will be looking into putting out a Middle School newsletter, perhaps quarterly, with information on the curricular happenings in the Middle School as another means of enhancing communication between parents and teachers.
- School Golf League-Jim H. asked if we have any concerns about proposal. None presented at meeting, but we are to look at the previously emailed materials and we will discuss further at November meeting if necessary.

9. Old Business:

- Internet Awareness/Safety Program: Christine reported that Andy Stemper & a few others met and looked at Net Smarts.org. They concluded that this program would be highly beneficial to both parents and students. Information on the program and when it will occur will appear in Jayme's letter in the weekly on 10/13/09. Mike Hale, the presenter, currently works with the Department of Justice.
- Web Tour of School: Christine reported that they are still looking into reviving this project and will report further when she has more information.
- Parking Lot Security/Lighting: Meeting ended before this issue could be addressed. Will appear on meeting agenda for November.

10. Announcements: There were no announcements.

11. Meeting was ended at 8:15, and the members adjourned to the Church Hall for the continuation Common Leadership Night. The next School Board meeting will be on November 16th, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the school library.