



School Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, April 8, 2010

6:00PM - Room B113

MINUTES

Members Present:

Principal: Patrick Fox

Assistant Principal: Loretta Eller

Chairperson: Diane Glaser

Board Members: Dawn Folisi, Jeff Kallberg, Janel Klugherz, Joe O'Connor, Peg Sibbet, Greg Wenthe

Recording Secretary: Katie Vander Weit

Others: Joy Fischer, Christine Hockman, Laurie Maxwell

I. WELCOME AND PRAYER - Dawn Folisi

A. Approval of March 11, 2010 Minutes - approved

B. Approval of April 8, 2010 Agenda - approved with addition by Dawn Folisi

II. EDUCATION/ENRICHMENT

A. Math Curriculum Overview by Laurie Maxwell, MS Math Teacher: First and foremost, the math curriculum has one underlying theme: the math program should reflect the Catholic philosophy. How is this done? By teaching and revealing that, "God is present in all things." In addition, the math program follows the MN State Standards for Math education. Promotion of technology is also important; the use of calculators, computers and SMARTBOARDS is ever-present. Peg Sibbet asked, "Are our students well prepared for math once they get to high school?" Mrs. Maxwell responded, "They are VERY prepared." Former students that return for a visit frequently comment, "I'm so glad you made us PROVE our answers." Another board member asked, "Is Everyday Math (for grades K-5) a good program?" Mrs. Maxwell responded, "Yes, it's a good program." At the end of her overview, the board members thanked Mrs. Maxwell for an excellent and informative presentation.

III. DISCUSSION/DECISION

- A. Joy Fischer brought a request to the board to consider eliminating “early release” days from the school calendar. The days are inconvenient for some parents and the school day is compromised. Joy would like to, “... be proactive instead of reactive.” Questions were raised about busing and how the teachers feel about these days. Mr. Fox asked Joy if she would agree to be a part of a subcommittee along with other board members to research the topic. Joy agreed. Diane will ask other board members if they are interested in being on this subcommittee. Mr. Fox will contact the transportation department to find out if extending the school day is an option (if buses would be available). Mr. Fox explained that staff have worked to make early release days more effective/efficient. Staff purposely schedule events/activities on these dates to make the best use of the abbreviated schedule. In addition, Adventures Plus offers extended hours on these days and is open if a minimum of 12 children sign-up.
- B. SAB Chair Term/Finance Committee Liaison Decision - According to the SAB Constitution, SAB elects a chairperson each June. No policy changes are necessary. Also, no decision is necessary regarding the Finance Committee Liaison position.
- C. SAB Discernment Candidates Update - To date, three people have expressed interest. Joe suggested each board member think about at least two candidates and reach out to them before the next meeting.
- D. SAB Constitution Update Decision - The board agreed to all changes discussed at the March, 2010 meeting. Patrick will post the updated SAB Constitution on the website. Dawn asked if others thought it was important for the Parish Council Liaison be connected in some way to the school. Board members saw value in a school connection but also someone with a fresh perspective.
- E. Technology Update - New MacBook laptops arrived and are being prepared for 6th thru 8th students to begin using next fall. Peg is researching protective cover options. Joe stressed the importance of having web content control software on each computer. Peg (Tech Committee member) will investigate cost, etc. Joe commended Peg on a job well done regarding the laptops.
- F. Budget and Enrollment - To date, there are 299 students enrolled. The SAB calling campaign from last month was really helpful. Diane suggested a school-wide email from Mr. Fox to encourage parents to register. Peg will email Katie the budget report to attach to these minutes.

G. Accreditation Process Update - The MNSAA Site Team visit begins April 19th. The accreditation team would like to meet some members of the School Advisory Board and Parent Connections. Diane, Janel and Peg volunteered to be interviewed.

H. Principal's Report - All teachers, Debra Meidl and Darlene Casey attended the two day National Catholic Educational Conference in Minneapolis with 9,000 others on April 6th and 7th. It was a great event for staff who attended many sessions and will bring back new information to use at school.

IV. ACTION ITEMS REVIEW

A. Past actions:

- a. Joe is creating a plan for the use of excess heating unit appeal money
- b. School registration calling campaign (DONE)
- c. Update SAB constitution (DONE)

B. New action items:

- a. Create a school calendar subcommittee
- b. SAB candidate consideration
- c. Investigate web content control software.

FYI: Dawn informed all that the Parish Discipleship Committee is holding a town hall meeting on May 17th in Archangels Hall at 7:00pm. The committee is looking for ways it can help the committees of St. Michael parish and school. Joe said he would try to attend.

V. EVALUATION OF MEETING

- A. On task (Rate 1 - 5) 5
- B. On time (Rate 1 - 5) 3

VI. CLOSING PRAYER - Dawn Folisi

Dedicated to spiritual growth, academic excellence, and social development,
the mission of St. Michael Catholic School is to prepare our students
to live the Gospel message in an ever-changing, diverse world.