

# St. Gregory the Great Advisory Board Meeting

February 17, 2010

**Attendance:** Peter Wilson, Carmen Matz, Ken Evans, Matt Cole, Scott Mullins, Sherry O'Brien, Erika Velazquez

**Absences:** Greg Rochester

**Guests:** Molly Clifford, Dominic DelBalso, Michelle Farinacci, Yvonne Novario, Sandra Bauman, Laura Gielink, Sue Bedinghaus, Megan Kander, Molly Rochester

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**Call to Order:** 7:04 PM by Carmen Matz

**Opening Prayer:** Carmen Matz

**Meeting Minutes:** January 2010 approved

**Pastor's Report:** None

## **New Business:**

Open House was once again a huge success. It resulted in 22 new interested families: 15 were kindergarten and 7 were for preschool. The school will follow up with these people and keep communication open. The committee was thrilled that several families stayed for the whole open house and visited the whole school, not just the areas that affected their children.

Father Ireland will hold a meeting on February 23, 2010 in the church concerning the school name change. All are encouraged to attend.

The floor was opened to our guests to express concerns or opinions on the recent news that the school will have to change its name along with the parish in June. Carmen reminded all to keep in mind the positive point of this news, some of them being that the school will be in the same location, the teachers and staff will not change (with the exception of those retiring) and the students will remain the same (with the exception of the graduating 8<sup>th</sup> graders).

The first question posed was whether or not we can appeal the Bishop's decision. Mr. Wilson will look into the matter and inform the board. Parents wondered if there were any schools involved in a parish merger that were not being forced to change their name.

The next question addressed what exactly will be affected by this name change. Will the school be required to change uniforms, the mascot, school colors or athletic team uniforms? People expressed concern over the cost of buying new uniforms. The Athletic Club recently purchased

new helmets for the football team, among other items. Will the school be allowed to use these items until they wear out?

What will become of St. Gregory the Great School's Blue Ribbon status? Mr. Wilson said he would look into that as well. He stated we will definitely have to notify them of the new name.

What will the legal costs of changing a name be?

Some parents suggested compiling a list of the total cost of this name change and presenting it as an appeal. We could include the money recently spent on the new helmets and the new signage throughout the building; the cost of designing and purchasing new stationery; the legal costs, etc.

Most parents attending the meeting felt that we need to see if we can stop the name change. The consensus was that if we don't try we won't know.

Mr. Wilson suggested that in the meantime, we should start moving forward to create a smooth transition for the students, teachers and parents. It will not be an overnight process. No one will be expected to purchase all new things all at once. Committees will be formed to ensure that the change will be relatively painless.

#### **Old Business:**

Ken Evans and Mr. Wilson will be meeting in the next two weeks to discuss the grants we have chosen to pursue.

The school development committee is focusing on the flooring and wall for 6 rooms involved in the move from Tabor. It mainly involves painting and repair.

Scott Mullins presented his findings on National Junior Honor Society. The school is moving forward to establishing a chapter.

Mr. Wilson said Power of the Pen will not be started at this time.

Carmen reported on her finding in terms of Destination Imagination. It involves creative problem solving, competing at regional, state and national levels. The program requires a coordinator and parent volunteers. Carmen will speak with coordinators at Gesu, Chagrin Falls and Beachwood.

#### **Principal's Report:** Presented by Principal Peter Wilson

The students raised almost \$1,500.00 for Haiti relief.

The school has a new Spanish teacher.

Enrollment deadline is Friday 2/19/2010. So far the enrollment is at a little over 100 students. Usually the numbers pick up at the deadline.

Preschool Teacher Donna Olp was named to a one year position on the Scholastic Books National Advisory Board. Congratulations to her!

The kids enjoyed their afternoon with Moon Dog.

**Next Meeting:** March 24, 2010

**Closing Prayer:** Carmen Matz

**Adjournment:** 8:15 PM