

St. Gregory the Great Advisory Board Meeting

September 16, 2009

Attendance: Peter Wilson, Carmen Matz, Ken Evans, Matt Cole, Greg Rochester, Scott Mullins, Sherry O'Brien

Absences: None

Guests: None

Call to Order: 7:00 PM by Peter Wilson

Opening Prayer: Carmen Matz

Meeting Minutes: May 2009 unavailable

Pastor's Report: None

Principal's Report: Presented by Principal Peter Wilson

Mr. Wilson began the meeting with a list of possible focus areas for the 2009-2010 School Advisory Board. Last year the board focused on grants, the parish budget and marketing. All agreed that those were still a main concern for the board and the school.

Mr. Wilson said at the time of the meeting, there were no active grants being pursued. In the past grants have been focused on science and technology. There is a need to find people with grant writing experience to continue our search for corporations and foundations willing to fund various school programs. Expanding the grant focus was also discussed.

Mr. Wilson also suggested some new goals for the board this year. His first suggestion was the upkeep and improvement of the physical school campus. The addition of the exterior and interior signage around the campus is a tremendous improvement for visitors and the families of prospective students. The board feels that several minor improvements will enhance the efforts started last year. It was suggested that the board compile a list of volunteers willing to share their skills; carpentry, painting, landscaping, etc. A survey of skills was suggested to find the talents in our community. It was also mentioned that eighth graders and high school students could earn much needed service hours by helping out around campus.

Mr. Wilson also expressed a need to enhance school programs. Programs such as foreign language, music and remedial are big draws for prospective families. Mr. Wilson suggested adding an enrichment program for gifted students. The procedure for beginning a Junior National Honor Society was also discussed.

Other suggested goals were teacher support. Because our teachers are not unionized, they have no one to aid in negotiation of compensation and benefits. Mr. Wilson also expressed a need to increase professional development for the teachers. Topics such as Catholic Social Justice and writing instruction were a couple of the possible areas that could be covered. Money is needed to bring these programs to the school. Grant money may be an option for professional development.

Mr. Wilson asked the board to consider all goals he suggested. The board will decide which they deem the most important for this school year and focus on them. They did agree that the focus should remain on grants and the school budget. With the recent state cuts, a school of St. Gregory the Great's size is dealing with \$40,000.00 less in funds. Such funds were used for text books and remedial services. The board hopes to meet with Father Ireland in the near future to discuss the school budget.

The election of officers for the 2009 -2010 School year was the next topic of discussion. The following members volunteered for the following positions: Carmen Matz: Chairperson; Matthew Cole: Vice Chairperson; and Sherry O'Brien: Secretary. There will be an election at the next meeting as required in the bylaws.

Old Business: None

New Business:

A seventh member is needed for the board due to the loss of current members. Mr. Wilson asked that we contact him with suggestions.

Next Meeting: October 21, 2009

Closing Prayer: Mr. Wilson

Adjournment: 8:25 PM