

St. Gregory the Great School Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: October 19, 2005

Time: __7:10 pm

Place: School Library

Board Members Present:

Chris Lynch
Ann M. Hawkins
X Tom Wenzel
Gary Novinc
Gina McVey
Jim Johnson
Joe Furst (conference call)

Faculty Members Present:

Stacie Webster
Linda Hart
Sister Kathleen
Patricia Mascia

Fr. Ireland
Pete Wilson

Guests Present:

Mark Geyman
Mary Alice Knudson
Jill Medovich
Barb Mastroiani

Maria Clifford
Carol Sisson
Jamie Lawler

Opening Prayer Given By: Gary Novinc

Previous Meeting Minutes: September minutes approved

Pastor's Report: Fr. Ireland

- There are not adequate numbers of parents coming to mass
 - Donations are down—would like to see \$10 per family
 - Vital for spiritual life of the Parish
 - Fr. Ireland to provide breakdown on what percentage of School Families are that are not contributing routinely so we have some objective data for discussions or mailing with parents in weekly school newsletter.
- Suggestions: Get the children more involved and the parents will follow
Contact Athletic Board to designate 5pm Mass on Saturday the “Athletes” Mass

Principles Report: Peter Wilson

- 80th Anniversary Meeting was very productive
 - Sandy Bauman—chairing the committee

- Events Planned:
 - 1/28/06 (Saturday) Alumni Mass & reception at School
 - 1/29/06 Opening Mass of Catholic Schools Week
 - 6/17/06 Alumni Dinner (date is tentative)
 - 9/25/05—Mass & Reception to kick-off 80th Anniversary went well
 - Sun Messenger Coverage—nice sized article and picture
- Alumnae List now posted on parish web (1927-2005)
- PTC—Coffee with the Principal—good discussion
- Uniform
 - Serves us well, no need to make changes
 - Do not want to add shorts as option as may be difficult for parents, gym uniforms can be worn on hot days as needed
- Respect Life Month (October)
 - Birthday Cake Project—raised \$400.00 for Birth right & Womankind
- Magazine Drive—Successful
 - Inflatables & Hummer to Winking Lizard were a big hit
- Month of the Rosary (October)
 - All school Rosary
- Student Council
 - Very active this year
- School Newspaper
 - Moderated by Mrs. Lancaster & Ms. Herbert
- ITBS testing—decided to test grades 1-7 beginning 2006/07 school year
 - Diocese recommends testing grades 1,3,5,7
- Notes for the future:
 - Parent Handbook—work in progress
 - Gary Novinc working on Code of Conduct (Handout of first draft)
 - Brochure—Tom Wenzel & Mary Jo Levand
 - Compiled info last year
 - Trends—What are neighboring schools doing?
 - Long Range Plan for area school closings
 - What will SGS do if another school closes?
 - What if the numbers get too large?
 - Staffing & Finance considerations?
 - Optimal number for school with regard to finance & facilities is 720 Per study with Ann Hawkins, Mary Jo Levand & Chuck Leibenhauer
 - High School Requirements—nothing done
 - Science Curriculum
 - Texts are being reviewed
 - Likely that all new books for each grade level will be required for 2006/07
 - Math Scores
 - Continue to grow over the last 4 years

- Attribute success to Simple Solutions
- Iowa Tests
 - Longitudinal studies—tracking students through the years
- Computer Curriculum
 - Diocesan-minimum competency
 - School using technology and progress is rapid
- Curriculum Mapping
 - Have not sought grant
 - Diocese has offered more training sessions
 - The mapping process is simple but takes a long time
 - Summarizes lesson plans
 - Requires good communication
 - January 3, 2006 Teacher work day for Mapping
- Computer Lab
 - Electrical work begun Oct. 4—probably finished
- Gym Curriculum—is it appropriate?
- School Publicity
 - No 80th anniversary flags—too expensive
 - Could we solicit donations?
 - Banner is up (one was damaged by wind)

New Business:

Gary Novinc--Where does Library Book Fair proceeds go?

Wilson: Need a plan—don't want to spend \$ if there isn't a need

50% of last years proceeds went toward library books

--Wilson was to decide if we could direct 100% of profit to Library for next 2 years until adequately stocked then back to less than 100% as deemed appropriate.

Note that the shelves seemed bare and the \$ probably should be spent in the Library

Scholastic books will double the # of books for the same dollar amount

Kevin Doles—not present for progress/update re: Preschool

Carol Sisson—Grant Research

CCF Disceting Microscopes—undecided; Toshiba may also fund microscopes

Library Foundation—give 15 books

Lowes toolbox--\$5000.00 for beautification of school

Looking for grants to supplement the Play

Mary Alice Knudson:

- Do we have a plan for teacher retention—how not to lose teachers to public schools?
- We “treat teachers well, but do not pay them well”--no money to compete with public schools.
- We are at the higher end of pay schedule for Catholic school teachers to assist in retention

Old business:

- Gary Novinc—Code of Conduct coming along, SGS handbook was starting point
 - Referred to Diocesan guidelines
 - McVey: think you should add more parent communication/notification

Jamie Lawler: Curriculum Mapping

- Compiled info on mapping (handout)
- Researched online, Nordon, Orange & Gesu
- Consultant at a local school used paid for with Title (?) money
- Expert at Ursuline College—Catholic School teacher
- Videc—ASCD (Wilson familiar with and uses)

Cheerleaders—doesn't seem to be an interest (Did we ask?!?!?)

Agenda Items:

Edline

Homework—is it grade level appropriate?

Gary Novinc—Code of Conduct

Carol Sisson—Grants

Kevin Doles—Preschool

Curriculum Mapping

Computer Room

School Publicity—Sign (Wilson)

Brochures (Wenzel, Levand, McVey, Committee)

Closing Prayer: Fr. Ireland

Meeting Adjourned at: __9:05 pm

Next Meeting Date and Time: November 16, 2005
7:00 pm School Library