

# St. Gregory the Great School Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** October 18, 2006

**Time:** 7:10 pm

**Place:** School Library

**Board Members Present:**

Chris Lynch  
Mary Jo Levand  
Gary Novinc  
Katie Rahill  
Jim Johnson  
Don Schuele  
Pete Wilson  
Fr. Ireland

**Faculty Members Present:**

Lee Liebenauer  
Kim Herbert  
Kevin Doles

**Guests Present:**

Jill Medovich  
Roger Mastroianni  
Maria Clifford  
Carol Sisson  
Sandy Bauman  
Jamie Lawler  
Mark Geyman

**Opening Prayer Given By: Fr. Ireland**

**Previous Meeting Minutes: August and September minutes amended and accepted**

**Pastor's Report:**

- October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006 Living Rosary
  - Thanks to all who participated
  - Very impressed with the attendance of children and parishioners
- Father Ireland will be taking a sabbatical for the months of January, February, and March.
  - Father Ken will be the “caretaker” of the parish
  - Father Ireland will keep in constant contact with Fr. Ken and priests from neighboring parishes will come in to help with 1st Penance, Confirmation retreat and Lenten confessions.

## **Principles Report:** Peter Wilson

- Drama Club
  - Both the school and the parish are saddened to hear the news that this will be the last year for the Drama Club play production.
  - This will be a special year for the play.
  - The door is open to help fill the void that will be left.
- The PTC Coffee with the Principal was well attended.
  - The majority of the discussion centered on the results of last years IOWA testing.
  - Our children are testing within the diocesan recommendations and approximately around the 75% range. We are stronger in K-3 than the higher grades. There are no significant areas of weakness.
- Staph Infection
  - The issue of an eighth grader having a staph infection made it to the public thru the news media.
  - The Board of Health, the diocese, and PSI our nursing contractor were consulted and a news release was disseminated.
- Assemblies/Upcoming events
  - Officer Phil: Internet and stranger safety
  - Villa Angela St. Josephs Drama Club: performed dramatic readings for the younger grades.
  - December: Red Cross Blood drive
- Viva Las Vegas
  - The goal of this year's auction is for a larger reaching audience; not just the school families. It is Mr. Wilson's hope that the success of the event continues and grows.
- Preschool Open House
  - November 16<sup>th</sup>
  - This will be the first year we have an open house prior to Catholic Schools week. The hope is to get interested families to pre-register.
- Curriculum Mapping
  - The Math curriculum mapping is complete and will be examined with the faculty at the November faculty meeting.

## **Old Business:**

- Drama Club
  - The feedback received upon the announcement of this being the club's final year was that there is going to be a need to fill the gap it is going to leave for the junior high students especially the current 7<sup>th</sup> grade class.
- Grants
  - Lowe's Toolbox grant: we missed the October 15<sup>th</sup> deadline but the grant will be sent in for the February 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.
  - We received a \$500 science grant from First Energy on solar energy.

- The following grants are being looked into: Target, John Templeton Foundation, and Toyota.
- The Toyota grant may be able to provide the school with up to \$10,000 in science teacher pay.
- Gym Clothes
  - The faculty is not in favor of children remaining in their gym clothes after gym class.
  - Mrs. Liebenauer suggested that we look into modifying the gym uniform.
  - Mr. Wilson is going to create a questionnaire to poll the whole school for their feelings on the subject. It will be a tear-off in the newsletter.
  - Jill Medovich was concerned with the cost of modifying the gym uniform and Jamie Lawler pointed out that there would be a cost reduction in uniform needs to compensate.
  - Fr. Ireland stated the final decisions would be made by the administration and he does not want to see the quality of the education compromised due to a change in dress code.
  - Carol Sisson would like to see what the diocese says about the liability we are opening ourselves up to by allowing our children to change in restrooms since we are forcing our children to change without adult supervision.
- September 30<sup>th</sup> cut-off for Kindergarten enrollment
  - Mr. Wilson stated that there is a clear recommendation from the diocese to go with our public schools cut-off date which is September 30<sup>th</sup>. He feels the largest issue is service to our community and we have a safety net with our early screening.
  - The kindergarten teachers are in favor of keeping with the August 1<sup>st</sup> date.
- Technology
  - Roger Mastroianni said that the administration has agreed to go ahead with a 2<sup>nd</sup> computer and was wondering how we are going to come up with the \$22,000 needed to create this lab.
  - Kevin Doles said \$750 came in based on the letter he sent out to the school families in September. He is intending on sending out a reminder letter.
  - It was asked if some creative ideas could be formulated to raise the money and in some way involve the children in this effort and to bring these ideas to the November SAB meeting. i.e. Giant Eagle, Target, Livestrong bands.
  - Two questions were posed: Can we put an extra envelope in the envelope packs for the lab and can we put the letter sent out to school families in the church bulletin?
  - Mark Geyman noted that by using Good Search.com as your search engine, 1 cent per search goes to St. Gregs and this may be a novel way to raise this money.

## **New Business/ Agenda Items:**

- Spanish Program
  - Carol Sisson wondered if we could take it out of the lower grades and put it just into the junior high where they would have it on a daily basis as opposed to once a week.
  - Don Schuele suggested that the best way to teach a language is to immerse the children in it while they are young.
- Pre K and Kindergarten staggered entrance
  - Mr. Wilson noted that the staggered entrance with sped up by 2 full days this year in comparison to last year. He also feels there is a good reason for the staggered entrance and the teachers handle it well.

### Substitute Teacher List

- There was an incident this year where a class was left without a teacher or substitute due to the fact that we have a limited list from which the teachers can try to find a suitable substitute and because our pay scale is so low.
- There is a need approximately once a week for a substitute teacher. Can we increase our substitute pay scale and can we find a way to increase our resource list.
- The only true requirements are a college degree and fingerprinting thru the state. Maybe we should let our families and parishioners know this and maybe we could find some more able candidates.

### School security during school hours

- It has come to the attention of the SAB that parents are concerned over the number of doors that are unlocked during the school day.
- Mr. Wilson stated that he has addressed the issue and is educating both the children and the teachers on the importance of not opening doors for adults or other strangers who may be looking for entry into the school, but to leave that job to the office.

### Edline

- Parents have inquired as to why the calendars and the grade level projects are not posted on the edline website.
- The teachers feel that it is the students' job to stay on top of their assignments both daily and long term and they do not want to shift the responsibility to the parents.
- It was noted that the teachers are becoming comfortable and much more efficient in their use of edline and the majority of parents at the meeting commented on their satisfaction with the information they are receiving thru edline.

**Closing Prayer: Jim Johnson**

**Meeting Adjourned at: 9:15 pm**

**Next Meeting Date and Time:** November 15, 2006  
7:00 pm, School Library