



ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL

ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

December 1, 2009

- The meeting was held in the Parish Center and came to order at 7:45 P.M. It began with a prayer offered by Father McGovern.
- Present at the meeting were Fr. McGovern, Sandy Miragliotta, Margaret Augustine, John McCann and Bob Puhak. Mary Christensen, Frank Reilly and Sharon McGee were excused.
- The minutes of the meeting of the previous Board meeting were read and approved without correction.
- The Board discussed whether or not open meetings should be scheduled. Traditionally, Board meetings alternated between public and closed. However, due to a history of very poor public attendance, the open meetings stopped. As an alternative to having open meetings, it was suggested that all meeting minutes be published in a timely manner and that the Board reach out to the school community for input. The matter is not closed.
- Fr. McGovern reported that the fire detector in the gymnasium has been reinstalled so as not to conflict with the new, retractable basketball backboards.
- Fr. McGovern also reported that the directives that are posted around the school explaining "how to close the school," "turn off the lights" and similar processes, will be updated and posted by Patrick. The HSA requested this at the October 27 Board meeting.
- The next meeting of the Parish Finance committee has school tuition on the agenda. The school administration will be submitting their projected needs for the upcoming 2010-11 academic year. Firmer guidelines for class size and the number of teacher aides will be discussed and possibly published. The school administration will investigate and document the cost of local Pre-K programs to help guide tuition setting.
- The Board also considered a reassessment of the Pre-K programs value to the school as a "feeder" for the grammar school. No decision was made and further discussion is expected.

- The Board asked the principal if there is some way of “measuring” the extent to which religion is integrated into the school day, including “non-religion” classes. As stated in the school’s philosophy:

“Embracing and promoting the concept of community, St. Michael's School nurtures, develops and enables young people so they can grow academically, socially, and spiritually. In doing so, the teachings of Jesus Christ are central to all that is done at SMS on a daily basis.”¹

It was suggested that, perhaps, Sr. Loretta could author report on this that can be shared with the Board. The report is envisioned as listing school and classroom activities that can be classified as “religious” as well as anecdotal evidence of the same. This will be a good starting point in applying metrics to such an important aspect of the learning process at St.Michael’s.

The administration did say that it could immediately focus on highlighting more details of this type of activity and get the word out to parents and guardians. There will be more communication home about activities of which parents might not be aware.

- A meeting for April 13 was added to the schedule.
- The next meeting is January 5. It is a closed meeting and will be held in the Parish Center.

¹ The Report of an Evaluation of St. Michael's School by the Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools (November 28-December 1,2006)