



ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

January 5, 2010

- The meeting was held in the Parish Center and came to order at 7:35 P.M. It began with a prayer offered by Father McGovern.
- Present at the meeting were Fr. McGovern, Sandy Miragliotta, Margaret Augustine, Frank Reilly, Sharon McGee, John McCann and Bob Puhak. Mary Christensen was excused.
- The minutes of the meeting of the previous Board meeting were read and approved without correction. They will be published on the website and a note linking to them will be sent out to the subscribers of *SMS Update*.
- The Board continued discussion as to whether or not open meetings should be scheduled. It was noted that there was definitely interest by some parents so it was decided that we make the February meeting - and every other meeting after that -- open to the public. It was suggested that the Sarah Black or Pat O'Keefe room in the Parish Center be used since either can handle the expected number of attendees. The pre-meeting will begin at 7:00PM with the open section starting at 7:30PM.
- Fr. McGovern reported that the Parish Finance Committee discussed 2010–11 tuition pricing and has set the increase to \$100 across the board.
- Minimum and maximum class sizes were also discussed though no final decisions were made. John McCann offered to see if there is anything in the way of "standard" class sizes in New Jersey. He will contact Mrs. Miragliotta with his findings.
- Class size became a topic of discussion since re-registration and new registrations begin at the end of the month. Current school families were strongly encouraged to hold places for their children by re-registering no later than January 28. After that, registration is open to all. With the recent closing of St. Agnes in Clark, waiting lists could be activated if classes reach a certain size. An additional class would not be created unless the numbers warrant it.
- Mrs. Miragliotta conducted an informal survey of the pricing of local Pre-K programs. It appears that St. Michael's, while not being the lowest price, is very competitive with area programs.
- Fr. McGovern will engage Savoca construction to investigate if it is feasible and affordable alternatives to providing small bathrooms dedicated to the Pre-K classrooms and enterable directly from the classroom. The goal is to enhance the infrastructure and leverage the impact of the aides, who, with such an upgrade, could spend more time in the classroom assisting the teacher.

- Pursuant to the Board's January meeting request of the Principal for a report on how religion is integrated into the curriculum, Sr. Loretta conducted a small survey of religious activities, programs, liturgies practices, etc..., taking place in the academic classes. The report listed a number of ways that teachers and administrators are incorporating religion into the various subjects, as well as the general day-to-day life of the school. It was suggested that, perhaps, this report be published. Here are some examples:
 - Social Studies - impact of Christmas on history and humanity.
 - Science - Environmental project called "Taking care of God's world."
 - Writing and Literature - writing stories on God-centered themes.
 - Art - Explored various depictions of Mary, Mother of Jesus.
 - Computers - correspondence with students of various faiths to encourage ecumenism.
 - Kindergarten - Built a "Joy to the World" village.
 - Thanksgiving - The holiday was used to reinforce the Eucharist as thanksgiving.
 - Liturgy - The Feast of the Immaculate Conception liturgy honored the work of teachers, mothers, guardians and grandmothers as a reflection of Mary's nurturing of Jesus.

- The next meeting is February 9. It is a open meeting and will be held in the Parish Center.

- *UPDATED after meeting - the remaining SAB meeting schedule is:*
 - Tuesday, October 27, 2009
 - Tuesday, December 1, 2009
 - Tuesday, January 5, 2010
 - Tuesday, February 9, 2010
 - Tuesday, March 2, 2010 (Open Meeting)
 - Tuesday, April 13, 2010
 - Tuesday, May 4, 2010 (Open Meeting)
 - Tuesday, June 8, 2010