



ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

February 2, 2010

- The School Advisory Board meeting was held in the Parish Center and came to order at 7:40 P.M. It began with a prayer offered by Father McGovern.
- Present at the meeting were Fr. McGovern, Sandy Miragliotta, Margaret Augustine, Mary Christensen, Sharon McGee, John McCann and Bob Puhak. Frank Reilly was excused.
- The minutes of the meeting of the previous Board meeting were read and approved with minor updates. 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 firmed up the schedule of remaining meetings for the 2009-10 academic session. Due to the interest expressed by some parents, it was decided that the March 2 and May 4 meetings will be open to the public. For the open meetings, the private section will begin at 7:00PM with the open section starting at 7:30PM. The venue for the open section will be the Sarah Black or Pat O'Keefe room in the Parish Center. A reminder notice of these meetings will be sent out to parents - both a flyer and an *SMS Update*. Class mothers will be reminded, too.
- Fr. McGovern will ask Savoca construction to investigate feasible and affordable alternatives to providing 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.
- Registration for the 2010-11 Academic Year
 - About 30% of current school families missed the January 28 deadline for re-registration for the 2010-11 academic years. While this commonly happens, it may have unexpected consequences this year for current SMS families due to the number of St. Agnes school families interested in sending their children to St. Michaels. Because St. Agnes may close, there may be an influx of additional students for next year.
 - To be fair and accommodate our current families, the re-registration deadline has been extended to February 12. After that, outside registrations for all grades from a list of St. Agnes families will be opened on a first come-first served basis.
 - If during the registration process a class reached its maximum size, a waiting list will be started. Those who have re-registered or have registered for the first time will be guaranteed admission for 2010-11. There will be no such guarantee for those on the waiting list.
 - If the waiting list gets large enough to warrant a second class for a particular grade -- which is solely at the discretion of the Pastor and Principal -- it will be added; if not, those on the

waiting list will not be able to attend St. Michaels in 2010-11. No one should count on an additional class.

- In the interest of accommodating our current school families, a reminder notice will go out as soon as possible outlining this process and specifying the absolute deadline of February 12. They will be told of the possibility of being denied admission for the 2010-11 academic year if they do not re-register by the deadline.
- Minimum and maximum class sizes were also discussed though, again, no final decisions were made. The Board found a professional reference for "standard" class sizes that was contained in the NJ Abbot laws. The purpose of such a standard for St. Michael's is to have a credible source for determining optimum class size. This is needed to maintain academic quality when deciding the cut-off sizes for registration.
- A member of the board asked the administration if it would consider expanding the upper class religion program to better prepare these students as they ready themselves for high school - and the outside world. While it was agreed that the current curriculum is adequate, even exemplary, it was felt that the program could be enhanced even more to include, for example, greater participation of SMS students -- boys included -- in the annual "March for Life" rally in Washington and a more general awareness of life issues, perhaps through a "movie night" or a program of speakers. More to come on this....
- The principal stated that the writing program within the school is "being ratcheted up." Generally speaking, there will be more emphasis on written assignments across disciplines and grades. More to come on this....
- While on the topic of curricula improvement, a Board member suggested that the school investigate a firm specializing in reading and writing methodologies with which the member had a good experience. More to come on this....
- Father McGovern distributed a letter sent by the Archdiocese encouraging all schools to take the initiative and devote the time to develop a long-term vision for their school that ensures success and sustainability. Financial planning, enrollment planning and marketing were cited as critical to the success of all the school and it was recommended that administrators and school boards focus on these as part of a Strategic Plan for the future. Father McGovern considers this -- as the letter stated -- "a clarion" call for "involvement, initiative, innovation and incentive" that will lead to a fiscally healthy and thriving St. Michaels School. More to come on this....
- The Board confirmed the dates for the remaining School Advisory Board meetings:
 - Tuesday, March 2, 2010 (*Open Meeting*)
 - Tuesday, April 13, 2010
 - Tuesday, May 4, 2010 (*Open Meeting*)
 - Tuesday, June 8, 2010
- The meeting adjourned with a closing prayer at 9:05 PM.