

School Board Minutes

August 2, 2010

Present: Mary Jo Ellis, Talbott Allen, Kathi Grisanti, Mike Tully, Lynn Thompson, Kathy Arnold, Helen Walter, Ellen Woo-Ming

The meeting opened with a prayer.

Principal's Report:

- LRP is changing to SIP (School Improvement Plan), this change fits the terminology in the SACS accreditation process.
- Enrollment is still low. There are currently 205 students enrolled in K – 8 and 7 enrolled in Jr. K. Factors for the low enrollment are primarily economic, as well as, the addition of two new day care programs opening in the area.
- The teachers will be reviewing the final documents for the fall accreditation review.
- Accreditation and standards are going to be compiled in binders, which will allow for the easy addition of new information on an ongoing basis.
- Terra Nova test scores will also be tracked, as well as, the comparison to Archdiocesan averages, where available.
- Blue Ribbon application not yet available. We were notified that a parishioner, with extensive grant writing experience has volunteered to help with the application.
- Kohl's survey – Kohl's department store is giving away 10 million dollars. This will be divided up between 20 schools, with each winning school receiving \$500,000. There is a link on the Kohl's website titled Kohl's Cares. The program runs through Face book, so a Face book account is required to participate. Participants are allowed to vote for their school, as well as, make a suggestion on how the school should spend the money.
- We will be adding new Science curriculum support materials this year in grades 2 – 8. Simple Solutions is designed to reinforce what the children are currently working on, as well as, build a background for future learning.

Technology Update

- PowerSchool should be up and running soon. This will replace the current Edline system. PowerSchool is designed to limit outside access, making the information on the database more secure. It will also allow for more streamlining, giving parents access to schedules (currently for grades 6 -8), homework and grades. PowerSchool will require sufficient teacher updates to be most effective. There will be two meetings to educate parents on PowerSchool. These will be offered on August 24 and September 16 at 7:00 PM.

- Students in Grades 5-8 will be assigned a folder on the secured school server. This will allow them to save documents/materials and then access them from an outside source, like a home computer.

Marketing

- We will continue to run an ad in the Record for two weeks.

New Business

- Kathy Arnold and Ellen Woo-Ming have agreed to share the secretarial responsibilities of the board and Mike Tully has agreed to serve as the Vice Chair.
- The school board will be hosting the August 12 potluck dinner, occurring after the K and Jr. K orientations.
- New/current board members were invited to attend a workshop on August 21, between 8:30 and 12:00.
- Lynn Thompson gave an update on the mentor family program. Suggestions on improving the program were discussed, as well as, possibly involving the PTO/room parents with the outreach portion.
- Lynn Thompson discussed S.P.O.R.T (Service Project Outreach Team). We discussed ways to incorporate this more into the classrooms. Kathi Grisanti agreed to discuss with the faculty.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30.

The next meeting will be September 13, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Woo-Ming