

ST. PIUS X SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES FOR MARCH 31, 2008

In Attendance: Carol Newman, Darlene Tobin, Msgr. Larry, Liz Potter, Alicia Mendoza, Brian Ruby, Michelle Rochester, Will Ward, Rachel Lopez, Michael Rochester; Absent: Frank Velez, Frank Perez, Amber Martinez

Msgr. Larry opened with a prayer.

Minutes: January, 2008 minutes approved and February, 2008 minutes approved.

Committee Updates:

A. Marketing/Advertising –

1. Parish Visits to be coordinated by Will, tentatively scheduled for two weekends in April (4/12 & 4/19). Msgr. Larry has distributed letters to Parishes regarding the visits by our council members. Potential parishes include St. Michael, Sacred Heart, Our Lady of the Lake, St. John, Divine Mercy and will add St. Peter and St. Thomas.
2. Carol spoke w/ a Deacon of St. Edwards and they are thinking of coordinating a Catholic School Fair. Will recalled our discussing a SPX sponsored Catholic School Fair.
3. Dialogue will begin with Bishop Farrell about the future of Catholic Schools South of North Dallas, specifically our struggles with enrollment. The Bishop's assistance has been petitioned in developing an action plan to address the declining attendance at numerous schools vs. other schools consistent growth.
4. SPX will be advertising in the local Mesquite NeighborsGo publication for two weeks @ \$140 per week and will be on the Dallas NeighborsGo website for six weeks.
5. We have invited the NeighborsGo to host a booth at the Spring Festival at no charge.
6. Msgr. Larry recalled the Ferguson Initiative, a group charged with the revitalization of the surrounding area and how do we re-ignite the efforts here.
7. Tiger Talks will continue for each grade level and the next groups are 1st/2nd grades. The Tiger Talks are developed to bring parents together to get to know one another and for fellowship, as well as, inform parents of expectations for their children for the next school year. Refreshments and free babysitting are provided.
8. Yard signs will be available in the next couple weeks. The yard sign is aluminum shield w/ the option of adding two riders. Shield is \$18 and \$10 for each additional rider. Minimum order is 50.

B. Needs & Assessments

1. Frank to address this at the April, 2008 meeting
2. Carol added the exterior doors and handrails need to be painted.
3. Will to ask absent council members to email other suggestions by weekend.

C. Finance

1. Auction raised \$107,000 – best ever.
2. Budget – Favorable \$69K at February month end is due to auction proceeds. March, 2008 will reflect a less positive cash position as some auction expenses will post.

PTO Update:

Still in need of a President and Auction Chairperson.

Pastor's Update:

The Dioceses is currently searching for a new school superintendent. Msgr. Larry is part of the search committee and has attended meetings where Principals share their vision.

Msgr. Larry asked the School Advisory Council had any suggestions:

1. Will suggested the importance of understanding how we compare to public School systems. A new superintendent is a good place to begin to deliver the message bringing all Parish schools together and coordinating more unified activities through out the Dallas Diocese. Will added that it would prove helpful to be able to benchmark with each other (schools) and internally it would be important to know how we compare: test scores, attendance, etc.
2. Brian suggested a united leadership effort for consistency across the board within schools, specific to curriculum, book adoption, etc. Msgr. Larry stated this would be a difficult task, as each school operates independently to a certain extent & it would take years to stream line.
3. Msgr. Larry was pleased to report a new contract was signed w/ Dr. Newman.

Principal's Update:

We now have 336 students registered for the 2008-2009 school year. Thirty-two of those are kindergarteners. We have 38 current students who have not re-registered. We have spoken to all of them and know that the majority of them plan to register when they get the money. A few are waiting to see if they are going to be moving over the summer. Five of them will not be returning. We are in need of more students, but everything that can be done is being done. Alicia Mendoza and I met with a man from neighborsgo.com (online and print component of Dallas Morning News) about getting more exposure through their website/paper, and we will be advertising with them for several months. We will also submit articles about the school as often as possible to get exposure that way.

We have two "Tiger Talk Happy Hours" planned for this Wednesday and Thursday, April 2 & 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the media center. These are for the 1st & 2nd and 3rd and 4th grade parents. The purpose of these events is to reach out to parents and help them understand what they and their children can expect from one year to the next.

The Parish Finance Council was very receptive to my report about the financial situation and enrollment concerns of the school. They remain supportive of the school and understand the issues we are facing.

Twenty-five of our 8th graders have been accepted at Bishop Lynch and two at Ursuline. Nine of the students are required to attend summer school in either math or English or both subjects. Four of our students received a Presidential Scholarship (\$750 one time) and two received Merit Scholarships (\$1,200 each year). Several of our students tested for the honors programs in Mesquite ISD, but we have not yet received those results.

13 of the 75+ families from the SPX open house came to test.

Msgr. Larry added that numerous families may be waiting until the summer to register for the upcoming 2008-2009 school year.

We currently have 24 1st grade students registered and need 36 to form two classes.

President's Update:

Membership Discussion

1. Brian Ruby has accepted the President position on School Advisory Council.
2. The Constitution should be ready to reviewing draft form for the April, 2008 meeting.
3. Michelle to prepare a bulletin announcement informing the Parish of available position on the Council.

SAC Open Forum:

New logo was presented as the potential new design for t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc.

Principal Evaluation:

Evaluations were completed by the Council members.

Important Dates:

- A. Next SAC Meeting – Monday 4/21/08, 7:00 pm @ Media Center

Meeting adjourned.