

School Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2014, 6:30 p.m.
Room 207

1. Call to Order and Prayer

Members in attendance: Matt Hietpas, Lauren Beckmann, Tom Dean, Mariann Willing, Lisa Lesjak, Kori Staab, Kelly Schmidt, Kathy Wyatt, Marcia Velde, Laura Maley, Fr. Dennis Dirkx and Kristin Reynolds

Members absent: Molly Gallagher, John Dulmes and Soley Somma

Guest attending: Marge Cain, Jennifer Luna and representatives from the SRS Student Leadership Council (Jack and Anna Hietpas, Madeline Connell and Ryan Mitchell)

2. Guest Comments

The Student Leadership Council approached the board with a proposal to change the current uniform sock policy. The SLC provided the board with both a prepared presentation and written documentation outlining their proposed changes, as well as a modeling of the newly proposed socks. The council and board discussed the topic for a period of time. Upon dismissal of the council the board continued the discussion and the following changes were approved on a trial basis:

- Current policy:
 - Anklets, crew, athletic, knee highs and tights (all grades)
 - Current colors:
 - Navy and white (all grades)
 - Black and khaki (not olive green) with khaki pants (6th-8th grade only)
- New **additions** to the current policy:
 - Sock type:
 - No-show socks (6th-8th grade only)
 - Solid colors for anklets, crew and athletic socks (all grades):
 - Black (expanded to 1st-5th grade), grey, hunter green, brown and red
 - Solid colors for knee highs and tights (all grades)
 - Hunter green
 - Small logos (such as Nike swoosh) are allowed

The revised sock policy is in effect beginning November 17th through the second week of January 2015. The board will review the revised policy in January before approving a final policy.

3. Parish/Pastor Report – Fr. Dennis Dirkx

The Finance Council will be establishing two sub-committees:

- Budget Planning Committee –
 - Responsible for looking at how much we are spending and where to make cuts
 - School parents are encouraged to become involved in the committee
- Future Planning Committee

The Finance Committee is working on their 2 year budget plan. They will be making changes to the plan to mirror the schools 3 year planning time frame. The mission of the committee should be the driver and not the need for money.

Fr Dennis and Tom have started “home visits” with parishioners to discuss the parish finances. They recently attended a dinner with 10 people and they had a nice discussion. Some were shocked that we need to work harder for financial support and many ideas were provided on what we can do. Per Tom, we need additional conversations like this so that this is not so taboo. Tom will provide us with a list of areas of concern for next months meeting. On November 19th, Fr Dennis and Tom will be attending another dinner, in which 50 people have been invited, at the home of another parishioner.

The religious education department is working on moving to one program, which they are planning to start next September. The new program is currently in its finalization stage.

St. Nicks Party is scheduled for December 5th.

4. Principal’s Report – Lauren Beckmann

Lauren was approached by a group of fourth graders, lead by Agrim Cincotta with a request to allow chocolate milk back into the school lunch program. During the board’s discussion of the current policy, Kristin provided us with the nutritional information for regular and skim milk (12 grams of natural sugars) and chocolate milk (6 add’l grams of processed sugars). The board agreed that the sugar difference was not substantial and agreed to approve the addition of chocolate milk into the school menu. Beginning next week Wednesday, November 19th, chocolate milk will be available on the lunch menu every Wednesday.

In 2012 an official committee reviewed the current school compensation structure and made revisions. During last months board break-out session the compensation structure came up during the review of Standard/Benchmarks 11, which subsequently lead to a follow-up meeting between Lauren and Kori Staab. Various details of the compensation structure were discussed during this

evening's board meeting. It was recommended that the official committee from 2012 should meet to further review the compensation structure. Additional names were provided that would be a great addition to the committee. Lauren will set up a meeting with the committee.

We were provided with a copy of "*The Case for Operational Vitality – Creating New Financial Models for Catholic Schools*" by Bernard Dumond. This document outlines a 10-step plan to enable Catholic Schools to pursue the path to operational vitality and achieve long-term financial viability. The board reviewed and discussed each step. In our discussion a number of items were mentioned:

- We need to write a school strategic plan for the next 3 years.
- What one or two goals we could own as a board and what are the action steps?
- What are our goals? Marketing; key things each committee may want to look at and capture in a plan; road map for next couple of years.
- Tom provided a number of different tuition structure ideas, which is a work in progress.

Kelly mentioned that she is working on grant writing at this time. She is looking at institutions that provide grant money to Catholic Schools. The goal is to have one grant and we need to find the right grantor. This process is more of a full time job in which most institutions have a full time person designated to working on this. Another goal is to understand and have everything in place – actions steps. See where money has been given – can we tap into as well? Grants are written to jump start a program and you have to write in a sustainability plan. It is difficult for Catholic Schools to get grants – much easier for a student. Many foundations do not donate to religious organizations, but to the financial underprivileged. Kelly will continue to pursue this until the end of the year and we will then review where things are.

We are in the process of developing a 3 year school improvement plan. Work needs to be assigned to the committees and the SAB board members. We need a template designed for each committee outlining what needs to be done (goals). Tom suggested using a template similar to his SRS Sources and Uses spreadsheet, which could be modified for this use. In the next couple of weeks Lisa, Lauren, Matt and Tom will meet to create a guide for the committees – what we need from you.

5. State of the School Meeting

Lisa provided us with a State of the School meeting recap. The meeting went very well. People provided unsolicited positive comments and parents stayed until the end of the meeting. A number of good comments about Fr Dennis and Tom's discussions were provided as well. Attendance this year was down from the previous year, but better than the meeting held in 2012. Matt suggested an earlier marketing campaign for next year – at least a month earlier. Kathy questioned if information about the meeting was provided in the packets given

during forms and fees. Given the constant updating of the school calendar it is difficult to give a hard copy out at the start of the school year.

6. SCRIP program

Kathy Wyatt (Interim Liaison to Finance Council to the Pastoral Council) mentioned that we are always looking for ways to generate revenue for the parish. One program currently in place is the SCRIP program, however it is under utilized. There are currently 5 SAB board members who participate in SCRIP on a monthly basis. Matt encouraged all board members to participate in the program. There are a couple of ways to participate - an as needed basis or you can sign up for auto monthly purchase. Cards may be purchased at the parish center, at the back of church after mass or by submitting the form (with payment) found online at www.strobert.org or in your child's school Thursday Folder. Questions may be directed to Kathy at 962-5691 or via email: kpwscrip@gmail.com

7. Meeting Dates

The SAB will continue to meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., with the exception of July, when no meeting is held. Therefore, the meeting dates are:

- December 10, 2014 – Kelly will provide the snack and prayer
- January 14, 2015 – Laura will provide the snack and prayer
- February 11, 2015 – Marcia will provide the snack and prayer
- March 11, 2015 – Molly will provide the snack and prayer
- April 8, 2015 – Kristen will provide the snack and prayer
- May 13, 2015 – John will provide the snack and prayer
- June 10, 2015 – Tom will provide the snack and prayer

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mariann Willing, School Advisory Board Secretary.