

# **St. Patrick School**

## **Consultative Board Minutes**

### **January 25, 2010**

**Present:** Arthur Swanson, Donna Secondini, Karl Liwo, Mary Driscoll, Ramona Belcher, Jean Landers, Susan Hetu, Denise Kelly, Traci Mello, Bob Hueston, Giselle Leary, Pam Daye Mark Smith, Tim and Peg Moynihan, Kristen Faro, Susanne Bromander, Renee Keegan, Steve Ahern, Bill and Dana Nardone, Peter Fabiano, Robert and Lisa Ford.

#### **Opening Prayer for Haiti by Mr. Swanson. .**

**Maureen Soley:** The minutes of the November Consultative Board Meeting were accepted. Motion to suspend the typical order of agenda to discuss tuition. Acknowledged members of the finance board who were present (*Susanne Bromander, Steve Ahern, Tim Moynihan*).

**Tuition Review (Susanne Bromander):** All families received a tuition letter for 2010/2011. The finance board is attempting to operate a zero based budget. The major causes for the tuition increase are the need for an additional 6th grade class and more reading and nursing support. A discussion and question and answer period followed. A number of parents present requested that the finance board look into ending the two tiered tuition structure in the near future. The finance board responded that while it was impossible to do so at present, the situation will rectify itself through attrition. The finance board will review the numbers again next year in hopes of further bridging the gap.

#### **Principal's Review (Mr. Swanson):**

- Catholic school week is next week.
- Centennial Mass is January 31, 2010, 12 noon.
- Open House with Creativity displays is the same day from 1-3 pm. It is being sponsored by the PTO. Parents will be supplying goodies. We are a parish school and we are encouraging parishioners to attend.
- Parents will have until January 31, 2010 to drop off their registrations. After the 31<sup>st</sup> we will begin to take names from the wait list.
- Catholic School Week events include a coin drive. Emma and Olivia Hayes' father Frank Hayes worked with Father Uni at St. Cecilia's Orphanage in Haiti. Three of their orphanages were destroyed by the earthquake. The Hayes girls made a presentation to the student council for the money collected to be donated to the orphanages.
- March 22-26 will be the Terra Nova Assessment for grades 2 - 8. They changed the date from the fall to the spring. The results will be in by June. It will be the Stanford Test. It provides us with information on the children's strengths and weaknesses. It is one additional tool used to drive instruction.

- Progress Reports will be going out on Thursday, January 28, 2010.
- No Pre-K classes on Friday, January 29.
- Penance for Grade 2 will be on Saturday, January 30.
- All staff has been retrained on CPR techniques and AED, thanks to Traci Mello.
- We have been putting together a booklet for parents who are interested in the school. New parents have been very impressed with our website.
- We are looking to have the lunch menu on the website.

**PTO Report (Susanne Bromander for Kiara Keohane):**

- Open House is Sunday, January 31 (1-3 pm) There will be coffee and goodies.
- We are preparing for Catholic School Week. There will be a teachers' appreciation lunch. Kids should be preparing their thank yous.
- Candy Bingo is going to be on February 12th.

**Mothers' Club (Ramona Belcher):** *Mother's Club Financial Report Distributed*

- The Christmas Fair went very well.
- We had a visit with Santa. The children were given pictures with Santa Claus.
- We sold Scripts after Mass, it went very well.
- Cash Calendars have been sold.
- The Auction will be March 13. It will be in the Parish Hall. We are now negotiating with the caterer and organizing a basket team. We are asking for volunteers to help. Anyone interested please contact us. We are also looking for any donations such as services, tickets, donations, etc., for the auction.
- The TV recycling program which was previously discussed will be held in the spring.

**Bob Heuston:** It is through a company. There will be a charge for people to drop off TV's, computer monitors, etc. A portion of the fee will go back to the school.

- Cash calendar winners are listed on the school's website.

**1000 Club (Sue Hetu):**

- The December drawing had three school parents win.
- There are 94 openings. They are available as gift cards.
- The 1000 Club could use some help. If anyone would be interested, the times are 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 pm, the second Tuesday of the month.

**Centennial Update (Donna Secondini):**

- We are preparing for the centennial.
- I have spoken with Kathy St. George. Looking at possibly June or November for "Late Night Catechism". It may be held in the parish center or the Stoneham Theater.

- We have been in touch with some of the sisters who have taught at St. Patrick's School. Irene Donovan was the first lay teacher in 1948. Nancy Donahue is interviewing her in the Sun and Independent.
- Fr. Bill has come up with a slogan "Celebrating 100 Years and Counting"
  - If anyone knows a former student at St. Patricks who withdrew to go fight in the war (WWII), we would like to bestow on them an honorary High School diploma.

### **By-Law Review, Karl Liwo:**

I have been reviewing the By-laws to clear up discrepancies and clarify things. There was a discussion on the wording as to the amount of time appointed members should serve. This will be revised and presented to the Board in the February meeting.

**Service Credit Program: Maureen Soley:** Requested update on Service Credit subcommittee, questions about the buyout program, the number of children (and hours of service credit), and if board members should receive service credit. A discussion also mentioned the difficulty in finding event chair people. A subcommittee consisting of Peg Moynihan, Kristen Faro, Sue Hetu, Ramona Belcher, Matt Bialock, and Kiara Keohane will review the service credit program and report back to the board in March.

"Any members of our school community with feedback, insights or suggestions for next year's Service Credit Program communicate their thoughts in **WRITING** by February 12, 2010. This information can be forwarded to the school office c/o Peg Moynihan and Kristen Faro or by email: [moynihan@comcast.net](mailto:moynihan@comcast.net). **Only written proposals will be accepted** and all proposals must be signed. In addition, the February 12, 2010 deadline will be strictly enforced. Any proposals received after February 12, 2010 will be considered for the following year."

### **Bob Hueston for Technology Committee:**

There is a Tech Subcommittee. Peg Moynihan is part of the committee. Goals were established to define what they are doing as follows:

Recommend a set of changes and processes to improve the school's web communication in order to:

- A) improve communication between the school and parents,
- B) increase fundraising,
- C) reach out to parents of potential students to help increase enrollment, and
- D) reduce direct costs to the school (for example, through lower printing/postage costs), with the constraints:
- E) do no increase direct costs to the school (for example, we can't hire a full-time web master), and

D) do not violate the privacy of the students, families, or staff.

We would like to have more parents going to the website.

**Maureen Soley:** Reminder Consultative Board Elections will be coming up in March.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next meeting will be held on February 22, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.**