

St. Patrick's School
Consultative Board Minutes
October 24, 2011

Present: Father Bill Schmidt, Arthur Swanson, Maureen Soley, Giselle Leary, Rose Tramontozzi, Mary Driscoll, Stephen DeCrescenzo, Renee Keegan, Michelle Ross Nuzzo, Kiara Keohane, Angela Leo, Sue Hetu, Liz Kochi, and Karl Liwo, Finance Board Members: Stephen Ahern, Matt Bialock and Suzanne Bromander. Non-Members: Anne Dooley and Maryellen Iannebelli

7:06 PM Opening Prayer by Maureen Soley.

Maureen Soley: Motion to Approve September Minutes. Motion to Accept: Kiara Keohane, Second: Karl Liwo, Minutes accepted.

Principal Review (Mr. Swanson):

- Former student Molly Barrett is teaching in a developing country and requested donation of “retired” textbooks. Mr. Swanson will involve student council in determining cost of shipping and/or seeking donations from other local schools.
- This week there will be a Stranger Danger presentation by Officer Kranefess. Discussion of school security: Parents entering the building should NOT hold the door open for people they do not know. All visitors must be buzzed in via Mrs. Kelly.
- Grade 4 Teddy Bears send off is November 4th.
- Ballroom dancing begins this week for grades 6-8 on Tuesday afternoons thanks to Ms. Golden.

Finance Board Report (Suzanne Bromander):

- This year's budget based on enrollment in June of 340. School was fortunate to enroll 39 more students for current total of 379
- High volume in After-School Program has earned money for the school under “Misc. Other Income.”
- Archdiocese is requiring schools to establish a reserve fund. \$40K surplus, yet new heating system and new roof on new school are needed.

Father Bill reiterated the changes recommended by the Safety Committee are charged to capital improvements.

Mr. Swanson states that although the school is financially secure, the enrollment could change at any time due to poor economy. A letter will go out to current families in November so that they may hold a space for children currently enrolled in Saint Patrick School (SPS). Current families are also given preference in registering children not yet attending SPS.

Mr. Bialock points out that we cannot depend upon continual growth, as next year is the final year that we will be adding a class (2nd eighth grade). Also, 1000 Club proceeds come directly to school.

Father Bill re-states commitment of school to small class sizes and that the maximum enrollment for the current school buildings should be no greater than 400, while in the past there were 400 in just one building. Father Bill stated school's commitment to a 23 students per class goal, but exceptions are made for extenuating circumstances.

Discussion of the goal of making the school more self-sufficient, and not depending on funds from the parish.

Update on Second Century Campaign (Father Bill):

There has not been a good time to introduce the Second Century Campaign; currently the thought is to ask current school families and alumni around the time of Catholic Schools week to pledge a donation of \$1K over a three-year period. Campaign proceeds would be put towards a new heating system. If families can do it we are grateful, if not, we understand.

Maureen Soley suggests not limiting the request to school families, but perhaps taking a second collection at masses during Catholic Schools Week.

Sister Maureen Joseph to be honored: (Fr. Bill) Bishop Uglietto nominated Sister Maureen Joseph for the Cheverus Medal. The medal is awarded to a person who has made extraordinary contributions to the Archdiocese of Boston. The medal will be awarded on November 20, 2011 the feast of Christ the King at 3 pm at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross. Members of the Student Council have been asked to attend in uniform. Sister will be assisting with coordinating the NEASC accreditation process for the school, a year-long process which began recently. St. Patrick's was one of the first 3 schools to receive an accreditation in 1995.

Mr. Swanson interjects that in the public sector, it is only at the high school level that accreditation is required, but the Archdiocese requires it of all Catholic schools.

Grants and Enrichment Program Update (Maryellen Iannibelli):

Yellow School Bus Grant: awarded \$200 to fund Gr. 3 field trip to Commonwealth Museum.

Stoneham Business and Community Education Foundation: due 11/1, hoping for \$1,500 to fund The Immigrant Experience enrichment.

Comcast Grant: Looking into \$25K for technology

Stoneham Cultural Council: due 11/15, hoping for \$1k to fund Deana's Educational Interactive Theater, a theatre bullying program

NCEA Social Justice Ed Grants: \$750 available to teachers who will address a theme of Catholic social teaching.

Toyota Tapestry Grants: National Science Teachers Association awards \$2,500-\$10,000 for innovative classroom projects.

Verizon Foundation: various grants for classroom use. Verizon will match employee volunteer hours with money. Any parent who works for Verizon may be eligible for this grant.

Project Give: possibility for funding the shipment of textbooks to developing countries.

11/8/11 Historical Perspectives: Benjamin Franklin

12/13/11 St. John's Prep "Swing Town"

1/31/12 Manguito Latin-American Music

2/7/12 ROBO the Friendly Robot space program

3/13/12 Bullying Education Deana's Educational Theater

5/15/12 The Immigrant Experience

Board members suggest the following for future consideration: Stone Zoo and Historical Society visits, Mars project at State college, Stoneham Theater Young Co. presentation, Park and Rec. Division of Engineers, Pompeii at MOS, State House tour for older children.

Parents should feel free to contact Maryellen Iannibelli with any information they may have pertaining to grants or enrichment program ideas. She can be reached by phone (781)771-2880 or email: Maryellen_iannibelli@yahoo.com

PTO Report (Kiara Keohane):

- School Directories include contact info for 249 families. New format thanks to Denise Kelly.
- PTO reps have reviewed room parents have completed child safety Archdiocesan requirements.
- Coming soon: Classroom wish lists and Fall Newsletter.

- Considering Latin theme for Catholic Schools Week which will coincide with Manguito Latin-American Music enrichment.
- For Halloween, Mr. Swanson will read The Great Pumpkin to the K and Pre-K, and have a “pumpkin patch” in the grass outside of the school so that children can bring one home.

Mother’s Club Report (Renee Keegan):

Shopping Night was slow, likely because the weather was great and it was a long weekend. Last year netted \$3k, but this year only \$1k. I would like to thank Mary Raimo and Ellen Looney for the wonderful job they did with Shopping Night.

- GNO 10/20 11 people attended.
 - November 18 & 19 Christmas Fair
- Thanksgiving pie sale-flyers to go home this week; open to parish. Halloween parties 10/28
- Bag-2-School fundraiser held 10/24.
 - Possible Electronic Drive as a fundraiser after Christmas.

1000 Club Report (Sue Hetu):

- 2 School Families won.
- 29 numbers are open.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

(Motion presented: Kiara Keohane, Second: Stephen DeCrescenzo).

The next scheduled meeting of the Saint Patrick School Consultative Board will be November 28, 2011 at 7:00pm in the Parish Center Library.

All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.