

Saint Patrick School

Consultative Board Minutes

September 27, 2010

Members Present: Father Bill Schmidt, Arthur Swanson, Maureen Soley, Giselle Leary, Traci Mello, Michelle Ross-Nuzzo, Kiara Keohane, Rose Tramontozzi, Renee Keegan, Mary Driscoll, Stephen DeCrescenzo, Susan Hetu, Donna Secondini (Centennial Consult).

Opening Prayer by Arthur Swanson.

Self introductions were made by all present.

By Maureen Soley: The Non-Member Participation Section of the By-laws was read.
The minutes of the May Consultative Board meeting were accepted.
(Motion to Approve: Mary Driscoll, 2nd Michelle Ross-Nuzzo)

Principal's Review (by Mr. Swanson):

- Discussion in regards to the amount of homework the sixth, seventh and eighth grade students should have. There is reference to this in the philosophy statement of the student handbook. Will discuss this issue with teachers. The teachers would appreciate feedback from the parents. Children should not feel uncomfortable about sending homework in marked "I didn't understand this", if they are having problems with certain subjects. It allows the teachers to understand what they need help with. If students spending an inordinate amount of time completing homework, parents should have student stop and send note in with student to teacher. General guideline is 20 minutes of homework per grade level, for example 1st grade 20 minutes, 2nd grade 40 minutes.
- School is open. The weather was horrific. We are fortunate to be able to use Our Lady of Providence Hall during warm weather. The staff and students are now settled in.
- The Mothers' Club and PTO have purchased two defibrillators. The teachers attended a workshop last year and will attend another one this year. They are not installed yet. We plan on installing security cameras; we are getting quotes.
- It is expected that all students follow the school uniform policy as outlined in the student handbook.
- We received a grant from the Catholic School Foundation to help purchase two more Smart Boards. The cost will be \$2500 instead of \$9000. They are scheduled to be installed on September 30 in the pre-k and the new 6th grade classroom.
- Mr. Stocks and his crew created the new 6th grade classroom during the summer and they did a great job. **Father Bill** commented that the school has been restored to how it originally was.
- We welcomed several new teachers this fall: Ms. Stoffel (Pre-k), Ms. Hembrecht and Ms. Janice (Kindergarten), Ms. Conley (3b), Ms. Magazoo (6th), Ms. Guttierrez D'Costa (Spanish), Sister Maureen Joseph Hunt, (Reading). We are pleased to add these exceptional teachers to our talented staff.

- Maryellen Iannibelli has been applying for grants for Saint Patrick School. These are private grants that can be used towards curriculum development, playground equipment, enrichment programs, field trips, etc. She has obtained a grant to help defray the transportation cost for the up-coming 2nd/3rd grade trip to Plymoth Plantation. Parents are asked to please check to see if their employers offer matching gift programs.

Father Bill mentioned that the Stoneham Business Education Foundation promotes the Spelling Bee. Saint Patrick School has received grants in the past.

Kiara Keohane stated that it would be interesting for the students to have an enrichment activity during the Catholic School week showing what the students experienced 100 years ago.

Question posed by Kiara Keohane as to whether the third grade is going to have science lab this year. Mr. Swanson answered that the third grade will not have science lab this year. Last year, the schedule provided us with the opportunity to bring the third graders to the lab once or twice per month. The third grade teachers may continue this practice if the lab is available.

PTO (Kiara Keohane):

- PTO has nine returning PTO representatives and seven new representatives. The representatives will be meeting Thursday to discuss their responsibilities.
- PTO and Mother's Club will be hosting the reception on November 7th for Cardinal O'Malley after the Centennial Mass.
- The school directory has 216 families listed in it.

Mothers' Club (Renee Keegan):

- Mothers' Club hosted Pre-K and Kindergarten orientation in addition to High School Information Night.
- Magazine fundraiser has raised \$3100 in profits. Everyone can still purchase magazines online. Participation in magazine drive was voluntary.
- We received \$546 from Target. When parents shop there and use their Target charge card a percentage goes to Saint Patrick School.
- Mothers' Club and PTO purchased the AEDs.
- Mothers' Club purchased hula hoops and balls for the gym teacher and some outdoor preschool toys.
- October 1, 2010 will be Shopping Night.
- We are doing a clothing drive (Bag2School) on October 14 (only clean items can be dropped off at the parish center). Notice went out to the parents today. They raised \$250 last year.
- Mothers' Club would like to thank Joe Pizzarello for offering free advertising of School events on his many advertisement TV's throughout the town of Stoneham.
- Treasurer's report: Angela Leo: \$14,659.00 is in the account from last year. The present total is \$20,757. Our share for the AED's was \$1500 (\$869 of that was raised from the

electronic recycling day) and \$420 for smartboards (from the trivia night). Treasurer will provide an end of year report. Financial reports are available in the Rectory and School offices.

Mr. Swanson: 15 area high schools attended the High School Information Night. They were very impressed with the youngsters. Many mentioned how thrilled they are to have members of last year's 8th grade class in their schools. They were also impressed with the questions the current 8th grade students asked. It is a great opportunity for the students and families.

Father Bill also mentioned the Cub Scout Pack 540 had their first pack meeting last Friday at the parish center.

1000 Club (Sue Hetu):

- There are 69 current openings. Seven families won this month.
- There are now two \$500 winners instead of one \$1,000 winner.

Donna Secondini:

- Finalizing invitations. Updating mailing contact lists. One invitation is going out to each family. Parish families will have the first chance to RSVP before they go out to the public. Maximum seating will be 250. There will be flyers going out in the bulletin. This program is not a fundraiser, it is level funding. It will pay for itself.
- In August a Face book page was opened.
- The website for the 100 Anniversary is celebrating100years@yahoo.com. The telephone number for the event is 781-438-0040. Volunteers are staffing the office located in the parish center.
- There will be a press release distributed to the local papers, Stoneham TV and the Boston Globe North. Students enrolled in the school from 1941-1945 that had to leave high school to join the service will be given their High School Diplomas by the Cardinal.
- There will be a Centennial Sponsorship Form with different sponsorship levels: Platinum \$5,000, Gold \$2,500, Silver \$1,000, Bronze \$500 and Sponsor \$100.
- Kiara Keohane is working on getting a billboard display on either 93 South or over the Blockbuster store on Main Street in Stoneham.
- Letters will be going out to local businesses regarding advertising.
- There will be a Capital Campaign. These will go out to the entire mailing list. The goal is \$250,000.

Father Bill:

- Money raised will go for new roofs in both schools. The new school also needs new windows.
- There will be a new stain glass window placed in the Church in honor of the Sisters of Providence. It will be near the St. Anthony statute. We have received three small windows from Saint Aidans.
- The old school will be named "Father Millerick Hall". Father Millerick was the pastor

and founder of the school. Sexton Hall will remain Monsignor Sexton Hall.

- The parish newsletter this month is dedicated to the 100 year celebration. We will be inviting the Sister of Providence in the area as well as the mother house to be our guests at the celebration.

Mr. Swanson:

Enrollments now and next year; certain grades are closed. There will be some availability during Catholic School week. We are trying to cap the classroom size at 23 students, two classes of each grade. If any student has the desire to be here, that is the mission of the school for them to be here. School should fill the child's needs and Saint Patrick School may not always be able to do so. The faculty here at the school is outstanding. In the beginning of December, we will send out a letter to the families asking them if they are planning on coming back next year. There will be a cut off date. Then a notice will go out in the bulletin for parishioners and then a general notice in the paper. We have received calls from interested families already.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. (Motion to adjourn: Kiara Keohane, 2nd Renee Keegan). The next meeting will be held on October 25, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.