

St. Sebastian Education Committee Meeting Minutes for November 30, 2010 and Comment Form

Present

Paul Hohl, Principal, Lisa Pieper - Chair, Robin Gorman, Kristin Koch, Sherri Walker, Chris Marcoux, Kevin Mullen, Melinda Runnoe – staff rep, Kim Nistler—home and school rep

Absent / Excused: Shannon Watry, Joe Viste, Clair Mitchell and Dr. Alfred Cintron

Approval of the October 19th Minutes

Principal's Report

- Early Budget planning is underway. There is a \$64,000 gap parish-wide to reconcile based on a series of assumptions including a staff 2% increase, higher health care costs and higher energy costs. Options to be considered include increases in fees and/or decreases in staff. A suggestion was made to include the cost of education on the pledge cards going to school families. A proposal was made to make a more personal appeal to school families and parish members to increase their pledge by a modest amount to avoid these fee increases and staff cuts. Lisa will draft a holiday greeting framed message and share with Ed Committee members if Parish Council concurs with the suggestion. Ideally the eCard or mailing would go out before the end of the year for tax planning purposes and end of year deduction considerations.
- 100th Anniversary Planning. A campaign is underway to raise money during the centennial year for targeted items: school foundation, remodeling the church hall, SMART facilities including school classrooms and religious education and multipurpose rooms. Lena Stephenson is the chair of the stewardship committee and welcomes ideas and assistance with these initiatives.
- Accreditation –Paul shared the current school mission statement. Committee members will review it and suggest changes at our next meeting.

Committee Connections

- Sherri Walker attended the November Parish Council meeting. The parish finished the budget year with a small surplus. The 100th Anniversary planning is underway with Archbishop ListECKI presiding over the opening mass on January 23rd. There was also discussion to update the bylaws and constitution. There was a significant change in the parish cluster. Margaret Mary and Mother of Good Counsel have joined other clustering leaving St. Sebastian and St. Catherine's. District 12 is still intact. The ensuing discussion to identify parishes with a mission similar to ours for clustering purposes resulted in few options. Gesu Parish is a community we identify with in several ways.
- Kim Nistler discussed some of the Home and School activities that are being promoted in conjunction with the 100th anniversary.

Goals 2010-2011

Best in Class

Plan for Review of K5/1st/4th Grade Models

Preliminary feedback is that the job sharing in K5 works well. The Best in Class subcommittee will work on a list of survey questions for 1st and 4th grade parents to get their comments on the present models in those classrooms after the next grading period.

Marketing & Promotions

New and Non-Returning Family Calls – Questions and call lists were distributed to committee members to initiate contacts. Feedback will be shared at the next meeting.

Open House -- Joe previously submitted 2 options for the Open House invitation. We will work with him to include student photos before the mailing is completed. The Open House is set for January 30, 2011 and post cards will be mailed 3 weeks before. Members will identify communication venues to distribute the information including neighborhood businesses and newsletters. A planning meeting will be scheduled before the next Ed Committee meeting.

Meeting Prayer and Hospitality Host:

January 11 - Sherri Walker

Feb. 8 – Kristen Koch

March 15 – Kevin Mullen

April 19 – Shannon Watry

May 17 - Lisa Pieper

June 14 – Melinda Runnoe

Remember, the Education Committee would like to have ad hoc members to add their expertise or voice to our subcommittee/work groups. If you are interested in any of the above topics, please contact members of the work group or subcommittee.

Next meeting: January 11th.

Submitted by Chris Marcoux

As always, if you have any comments, return them to the School Office-c/o Education Committee. If you would like a response, please include your name. Thank you.