

St. Sebastian Parish/School Ed Committee Candidates June 2010

Ed Committee is pleased to introduce the following individuals who have accepted a nomination to serve on the St. Sebastian's Education Committee. We have four candidates for four vacancies. Our current Ed Committee members & liaisons will affirm these candidates on behalf of the parish/school at our June 15th meeting. Please hold these individuals and their families in prayer as they begin this ministry.

Robin Gorman and her husband Dan have been parish members since 1989. They have been a continuous school family since 1992 when their oldest son Patrick (21 and recent graduate from U of MN), was in K4. Other children include Abby (20, just finished sophomore year at U of Tulsa), Maureen (18, recent grad and Salutatorian at DSHA), Peter (16, just finished sophomore year at MUHS), and Aaron (11, just finishing 5th grade at St. Seb's.) They were drawn to the parish, and school, because of parish families they knew (the Mountains and the Laydens.) They trusted the judgment of these friends who had children enrolled in the school. The Gormans have continued to choose Seb's because of the value Robin places on remaining committed to a school and parish community. She feels that continuity and stability is important, for both the educational school experience and parish community experience. Seeing how well prepared our school graduates are for high school has also reinforced their decision. The teacher that most impacted Robin wasn't necessarily her favorite, but Robin's 5th grade teacher was very influential because this teacher really emphasized grammar, spelling, independent study skills, taught Robin to stick up for herself, and taught Robin to keep an open mind (e.g. this teacher was from the south and taught history from a southern perspective, whereas Robin was living in western rural/suburban Milwaukee.) A favorite quote of Robin's is "A word to the wise is sufficient." Robin looks forward to bringing her long view and long history with the parish and school to Ed Committee. She is committed to preserving high quality at the school, with a continued emphasis on both "character" education and "book" education of our kids. We are grateful that Robin has accepted a nomination to serve on Ed Committee for a three-year term.

Kevin Mullen and his wife Laura, have been parish members for fourteen years, and a school family for ten years. Currently all three of their children are enrolled in the school, Daniel (just finishing 7th grade), Will (just finishing 6th grade), and Maggie (just finishing 2nd). The Mullens joined the parish after looking around in the neighborhood. It was a combination of Fr. Chuck's homilies and friends in the parish that drew them in. The school fit what they were looking for in terms of the complexion of a Catholic school. Saint Sebastian's has become part of who they are as a family. They share in the joy and anxieties of this community every day, and feel blessed to be a part of such a vibrant parish. A choice between staying or leaving does not seem relevant. Kevin's favorite teacher was Diane Gallant in 3rd Grade. Ms. Gallant encouraged creativity and self-expression. She taught her students to take chances and to trust themselves. A favorite quote of Kevin's is "You can choose to be part of the problem or part of the solution ... I have experiences with both paths." Kevin has a background in financial management and works with many school districts throughout Wisconsin. He has worked with many school boards ... some healthy & some not so healthy. He looks forward to bringing that perspective to Ed Committee. We are grateful that Kevin has accepted a nomination to serve on Ed Committee for a three-year term.

Joe Viste is finishing a one-year term on Ed Committee. Joe and his wife Carrie joined St. Sebastian parish in September 2008, after moving to the area in July 2008. They previously attended St Aloysius in West Allis, but were drawn to Seb's because of the location and personal recommendations from neighbors. Joe shared that his favorite teacher was Mr. Stangle, his band director at Sturgeon Bay High School, from 6th grade through senior year. Mr. Stangle was amazing at building positive relationships with the students. He was fun, fair, and made coming to school fun. Joe's favorite quote is about empowerment: "Give a man a fish, he'll eat for a day; teach him to fish, he'll eat for a lifetime." Joe has been a wonderful addition to Ed Committee, sharing his background and knowledge as a school social worker. We are grateful that Joe has accepted a nomination to remain on Ed Committee for a second, one-year term.

Shannon Watry and her husband Paul have been parish members since January 2005, although they have lived in the neighborhood since 1998 and attended parish auctions since 2000. The Watry family has been a continuous school family since 2006 when daughter Anneliese (now 10 and finishing 4th grade) started 1st grade. Other children include son William (7 and finished 1st grade) and daughter Natalie (3, currently in PAL but entering 4K this fall). They joined the parish and school because they wanted to attend church where their children would attend school, and to be fully engaged in the community. The school was highly recommended and they loved the strong sense of community they felt immediately. They've remained at St. Sebastian's for the excellent education, the commitment to teaching Catholic values, and the strong sense of community among the Seb's families - all of which are extremely important to Shannon and her family. Shannon's favorite teacher was her 8th grade science & homeroom teacher, Mr. Koch. In addition to science, he taught Shannon that you can't do it all but whatever you choose to do, give it your all. Shannon's favorite quotes are "We make a living by what we get; We make a life by what we give" by Sir Winston Churchill and "If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people" a Chinese Proverb. Shannon is deeply committed to helping young people learn, discover and build their leadership skills. With more than 18 years of non-profit administration, she looks forward to using her skills to help create an educational environment in which all children thrive and are able to reach their full potential. We are grateful that Shannon has accepted a nomination to serve on Ed Committee for a three-year term.

The Education Committee functions as the advisory board for school policy and programs. Various subcommittees work on promotion/marketing, budget, stewardship, vision and long term planning, or to address specific issues. Questions or comments welcomed by Terese Shelledy shelledy@execpc.com or (414)475-1222.