

St. Dominic School Board Meeting – Wednesday, September 23, 2010

Members present: Marie Wilson, Lucian Boldea, Susan Giddings, Scott Schallon, John Goglick, Dan Simpson, Jennifer Mize, Debbie DePollo, Fr. Mike

Others present: Joanie Hrivnak, Mary Jo McCarty

Meeting called to order with prayer by Fr. Mike at 5:45 pm. We all enjoyed dinner – thanks Mary Jo for making the sauce and spaghetti and to everyone else for bringing other food and drink.

New email addresses for everyone

Motion to accept the minutes of 9/15 as written by Dan second by Lucian. Passed unanimously.

9th board member... Marie has made no progress but will contact the candidates by next Wednesday.

Work day is this Saturday. Bring a post hole digger, weed whacking equipment, if you have it / them.

Review one-pager, identify gaps to achieve our goals and make a plan:

Build a Pipeline:

- We have: low student:teacher ratio; upgraded daily parent-teacher interaction; pre-reading curriculum; “Baptismal baby” program; current marketing is at the table at the back of the church on Sundays;
- Add / Change:
 - upgrade what we have posted on the website for preschool (Debbie to ask the teachers to add more to their sites including the letter to parents at the beginning of the year, etc.); we’ve made progress on the Hispanic outreach with several new families in the school
 - KEY FOCUS – CONVERT CURRENT PRE-K KIDS TO KINDERGARTENERS – Gear up parent communication... need to develop the value proposition to communicate the dollars and cents to these parents – build the feeling of connectedness between the families
 - All teachers should do parent-teacher conferences in preschool as part of the standard
 - Ask the families to give us a report card mid-year ... kind of like a survey / opportunity to improve (maybe incorporate asking for feedback into the parent-teacher conferences)
 - Involve the parents to build the excitement for going to Kindergarten... Don’t call it graduation – call it a celebration. Use like a bridging to elementary school ceremony. Staff/faculty’s job is to grow future St.D school kids... use language consistently like “when you are in elementary school ...” - How to integrate PreK kids into kindergarten and 1st grade with a few integrated events during the year

- → Need a focus meeting with the preschool teachers. Invite them to a school board meeting (Marie to coordinate the invitation)
- Do we need Spanish language one-page handout (Joanie to translate the bullet point handout and work with the Hernandez family on the language)
- improve marketing of preschool specifically within the parish – could annually send an info packet to preschool age families – could specially invite preschool families to an open house with an RSVP by appointment and actual invitation – be sure to emphasize that the classes fill up early – put a group picture of the preschool class on display or use as the invitation. Dovetails nicely with the outreach to Hispanic community (Dan / marketing committee to make a proposal);
- how many target catholic preschool kids are there (Mary Jo to ask Ruth Ann and St. Bernards)
- Janet builds meal manners... maintain through all preschool

Transform to Retain and Attract:

- We have:
 - Actively offer mid-elementary visit days. Sarah's buddy for the day called Sarah that evening. Sarah felt so welcome before she even came to school. Catch the spirit pep rally, Angel hours program;
- Add/change:
 - Market the tuition as 'what a good deal' compared to other private schools
 - Offer the visit day in the bulletin sometime during the spring – check city and county school schedules for when they are off and we are on for a convenient day (Joanie)
 - How to keep to 5th grade by giving the 5th graders something special and visible to the rest of the school (morning radio, safety patrol, trip to DC, introduce real instruments, career week, something computer, particular uniform piece, Let's ask the 5th graders – Mary Jo);
 - Add to website: what our alums are up to... we have a legacy of DB drum majors;
 - Any afterschool clubs or other activities to develop? Music lessons, Spanish, manners or cotillion classes
 - School spirit: Another pep rally around Catholic Schools Week. Make a big deal out of Oct 6 1st uniform day.
 - Build up enrichment course offerings. Find a way to involve parents as teachers in the enrichment programs. Ramp up life skills parts of the curriculum (banking, careers, engineers week, music, (Debbie – academic committee)
 - Ramp up basic manners and greetings, etc. (Debbie – potential topic for faculty meeting)
 - Formalize and market to parents / potential families the many little things we do to develop the kids into good grownups

- SAC – Carolyn is working to add structure to the afternoon, especially for the younger preschool kids
- Need an activity calendar for February – May ‘full court press’ of recruiting – see above for Preschool bridging (School Board) – maybe each parent who brings in a new Catholic child who enroll gets something – maybe the kids get some recognition for helping to grow our school community – give a discount if you enroll on Kindergarten visitation day. Need a whole work session on the full court press
- Ideas captured previously on tuition evaluation

Support:

- We have:
 - Regular interaction with Parish council; regular updates to the Diocese
- Add/change:
 - Ramp up School presence once per month at Sunday Eucharist with participation as collections, bringing up gifts, altar servers, wearing shirts, parents / staff as Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors – Bob Lange or Dottie Schockley organize this.
 -

Offer the visit day in the bulletin sometime during the spring – check city and county

Scheduling Catholic School dinner on Wednesday February 2 – Susan to invite Bishop Stitka.

Adjourned