

Saint Hilary Advisory Board Minutes of Sunday, August 9, 2009

Present: Abby Hoffman, Ann Mannix, Susan Durham, Jim Doty, Barbara Kuffner, Maria McDonald, Mark Thomas, Bryan Cemet, Lisa Rosenlund, Christa Sumanik Pemberton.

Note(s): Next meeting scheduled for September 2, 2009. Back to School night is scheduled for September 3, 2009. A big thank-you to Abby for organizing a wonderful feast at the TPC, Rob and Tom you missed a good one!

Approval of June 3, 2009 minutes: The minutes were approved.

Faith Sharing: For five minutes we discussed how what difference the Eucharist makes in our lives.

Annual Board Goals: We spent quite a bit of time on this topic. Abby provided us with the 'summary of current ideas' as we discussed these issues as goals for the Parent Advisory Board (PAB). We reviewed the parent letter spelling out five specific goals for the 2009-2010 school year. We state what we are actually attempting to achieve in order to improve Saint Hilary for everyone. Our overall focus is to engage the entire parent population.

We briefly discussed the fact that we operate within a break-even budget and that we as a school need to operate in a more fiscally sound manner and the fact that we need a one-year operating reserve. Budgeting is part of the long-term plan.

School communications will be a big project this year; everyone will be involved in this project as we improve the communications between the school, parish, parents, students, faculty, staff, and any other affected member/part of our community.

Lots of goals some big, others not so; we will accomplish a great deal and set in motion the vehicle to achieve the big ones.

Board President Update: As a reminder, Abby advised us of the date of Back to School night and how we will all be up front with name tags, and each of us will be introduced and available to the parent body.

Principal's Report: Bryan could have gone on for hours as he had so many ideas, goals, and objectives/observations to share. Abby really stepped into her Presidential time-keeper role for this portion. Bryan broke down the enrollment numbers; we had 278 students and are down to 268, though we are looking at 8 more applicants. 3rd grade has the largest enrollment with 33, 6th grade the least with 19. He spoke of having a very productive summer including the fact that he attended a 3-day educational conference. He has spent time reviewing the current curriculum in order to maximize learning in all of the core subjects.

He wants to be able to measure student expectations (coming in), the exposure (teaching), and the actual outcome (learning).. He also proposed some sort of parental survey.

He spoke of the Teacher Education Fund (Fund-a-Need) and how several teachers have taken advantage of the program, some have attended continued teacher training. There are funds still available for faculty and/or staff to take advantage of the continued professional training.

An overall goal is to make Saint Hilary a professional learning environment, pursuing educational excellence, and utilizing a measurement tool (other than standardized testing) to more accurately measure a Saint Hilary students understanding of the curriculum.

Long Term Strategic Plan: Susan informed us that we will receive a complete update in September.

Annual Angel Fund: Lisa informed us that responsibilities have been defined and that the only major change they are working on for this years fund drive is that introduction of EDP similar to what the Parish already has. In addition they have reorganized the categories of giving.

Annual Angel Fund: the last report was given. Final results are that \$292,406.00 was pledged and we are anticipating that \$12,000.00 will not be paid. We were 6 percent below the annual goal of \$300,000.00. 91 percent of all school families participated. A mere 19 families did not give. The average donation was \$1055.00 per child. Not bad considering the state of the economy.

Marketing and Communications: We met our newest member Christa who is ready to jump right in and work on internal/external communications and promoting the school. All of us discussed methods for more effective school/parent communication. The biggest thing we will continue to promote is the fact that the school stands for what it does, educating the whole child. And that the motto of (academic) Excellence, Spirituality, and Community are what we stand for as a Parish and School.

Website: Maria updated us on the fact that the WEB site should have a new look and feel by December of this year. The only thing holding up this project is the design work. Additionally a new admissions brochure should be out soon

Technology: Jim discussed monies necessary to maintain on-going computer operations. We have an annual maintenance fee of \$20,000. This will be an annual reoccurring cost. We have replaced 40 laptops with the goal of replacing 40 more. The wireless image strength is stronger throughout the entire school. Students will now be able to save work to their own files. We have a new server and modem. Finally with students back in school we will be able to test all of the new changes.

Parent Guild: Barbara presented us with the 2009-2010 fundraising calendar. Additionally, she presented the actual numbers for monies raised by Parent Guild events for 2008-09. From the auction to gift wrap sales, and everything in between (not including Angel Fund which raised \$289,772.00), we raised \$179,097.00. A lot of hard work went into each of these events. And, remember most of the school fundraising events have the main goal of bringing us all together as a community doing something fun for (and sometimes with) our kids and if we raise a little bit of money that's o.k.! Finally, we were given the projections for the coming school year.