

School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Summary

July 29, 2009

Present: Sr. Joanita, Rick B., Jeryl B., Jim D., Susan Mc., Susan M., Lynn R., Gary R., Colleen R., Nicole S., Ginny S., Amy V.

Absent: Jada D., Stephanie L., Jeff S.

1. New family orientation / school year kick-off

Ready-K / Kindergarten families:

- **1st day of class will be August 26th from 9:00am – 11:00am.** New families are invited to stay at school during this time for orientation. Info covered at orientation: uniform policy, bus and parent-pickup system, white envelopes, etc.
- Student Life's Amy V. is coordinating buddy families for the 30 new St. U families. Buddy families are also encouraged to attend the first day orientation session.

Open House / Meet-the-Teachers Night:

- **September 16, 2009 will be the open house evening.** Parents can go to the classrooms for a 15 minute presentation from the teachers. Lower grade presentations will be from 6-7pm and upper grade presentations from 7-8pm. This should accommodate families with multiple children at the school. Presentation times will be staggered throughout the time periods.
- The presentations are designed for all parents to meet the teacher and hear about curriculum, the teacher's discipline system, homework policies, etc.
- SAC will have volunteer sign-ups in the lobby for each committee. All SAC members are encouraged to staff these volunteer tables to answer questions and encourage sign-ups.
- Student Life will organize a uniform swap for this evening.
- The open house is for parents only. We will investigate having a babysitting room staffed by the after-school caregivers and 7th/8th grade students.

2. Finance Committee Update

- All families will receive a "family report card" throughout the school year to update the family on their financial health – assessment progress, tuition progress, cafeteria obligation, sports fees, etc.
- The finance committee is planning a series of fundraising seminars for late Sept / early Oct. These seminars will counsel families – new and current – on the various ways the fundraising assessment can be met. We hope to take the fear out of fundraising.

3. Fundraising Committee

- Lynn R. is looking for more members for the fundraising committee.
- A "fundraiser social" is being planned for late fall.
- Our fall fundraisers include coupon books (coordinated through the office by Susan M.) and Innisbrook gift wrap coordinated by Ann M.

4. Student Life Committee

- The school has been invited to sing the national anthem at PNC park at the Pirates game on Monday September 21, 2009 .
- We will publish a 6th/7th/8th grade babysitter list in the school directory this year. The school office will coordinate the publishing of the directory.

5. Athletics

- Cross country will receive new uniforms this year.
- A \$500 donation was received for new soccer uniforms.
- **We are still looking for a registrar for Athletics.** This person processes the registrations for all sports, deposits fees, and distributes and collects uniforms. We are looking for someone in the 4th/5th grade class to help us out.

6. Vision Committee

- The committee is working on establishing a 1-year plan and a 5-year plan. The committee has many ideas in the works, including getting recognition for our teachers through awards and grants, school vacation day childcare, multi-purpose room (gym) committee involvement, etc. Ideas are welcome!

7. Enrollment Management Committee

- With help from a donor, St. Ursula School will have a Route 8 billboard in December.

8. Cafeteria

- The Nutrition Group will once again be our vendor for the new year. Lunch cost will remain at \$2.75.
- Carol B. will continue to schedule volunteers and will provide Nutr. Grp. with the days we can have 2 volunteers and the days we will have 1. They will then tailor the menu to make the 1-volunteer days an easier menu to prepare and serve.
- Nutrition Group will provide a list of things that volunteers need to do on a daily basis and will try to have a checklist available for volunteers.
- Families will no longer get "double credit" if there is only one volunteer on a day.

9. Miscellaneous

- **Sr. Joanita is working with the teachers to divide up the extra-curricular activities.** Teachers will work in an advisory capacity only, with parents helping with program coordination and volunteer recruitment. Extras include forensics, robotics, student council, art club, library club, and the spring musical. The teachers will define the timetable for each and resources required. We received a grant to help pay for the robotics program.
- All kindergarten and ready-k students will begin bringing in their own snack on a daily basis. No longer will students be allowed to bring in a snack to share with the class. We have several students entering school next year with severe food allergies and this new policy is needed for that reason.
- Mrs. Conley, our reading support specialist from the Intermediate Unit, won the Intermediate Unit Apple excellence award. Great job!

Next SAC Meeting: August 19, 2009 7pm