

School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Summary

January 19, 2010

Present: Mrs. K., Jeryl B., David C., Jim D., Stephanie L., Susan Mc., Susan M., Lynn R., Colleen R., Jeff S., Nicole S., Amy V. **Absent:** Rick B., Jada D., Gary R., Ginny S., Fr. Dorsey, Sr. Joanita

We welcome David Colner to the School Advisory Council. He joins us as a SAC Associate. Thanks to Mrs. K. for attending the meeting as our teacher liaison.

1. Action Item Follow-up from December Meeting

- **After-care Room** - We have scheduled a cleaning day on Tuesday, January 26th, from 3-5pm.
- **Re-introduction of Ready-K program** - Jeryl B. has composed a letter to send out to community businesses to re-introduce the Ready-K program. Ginny S. re-vamped the Ready-K flyer to reflect the curriculum and tuition rates for 2010-2011.
- **Spirit Day**- A Pep Rally has been scheduled for Monday, February 1 during the school day. Donna Wright is spearheading the effort. Our boys and girls basketball team members will be introduced by our cheerleading squad.
- **Gradebook Email** – The office will remind families to sign up their email accounts on Gradebook so that the office has a reliable way to reach families via email. The office will send reminders to families via the report cards.
- **100th Anniversary** - A big thanks goes to Stephanie Lamperski and Janet Hanson for volunteering to lead the 100th anniversary committee. Festivities will begin in January 2011 and culminate in June 2011. A kickoff meeting will be scheduled for February. Ideas are welcome.

2. General Administration

- **Cleaning company issues** – tabled until February's meeting
- **Haiti contributions** – The school will be having a Haiti earthquake victim fundraiser this week. All students may have a jeans day on 1/22 if they bring in a donation for the cause. All donations will fund Catholic Relief Services. Fr. Dorsey and Sr. Joanita were instrumental in getting this fundraiser going.
- **Uniform Compliance** – Compliance with the uniform policy continues to be a problem school-wide, but especially with the upper grades. SAC members strongly urge a stricter enforcement of the dress code for those students going on the altar at mass (readers, cantors, petitioners) – in particular, sweatshirts/hoodies should not be allowed. The SAC will work with Sr. Joanita and the teachers to better define the dress code and determine the proper enforcement.
- **Traffic Pattern** – Many parents have noted the dangerous conditions outside the building due to parents not following our traffic pattern guidelines. In particular, we have parents doing u-turns, backing up into the bus lane, and going up the hill in the mornings. Stephanie L. will revamp the traffic safety brochure which has a form for parents to sign and return. We hope this will serve as a reminder to parents. A parent has volunteered to be a crossing guard for several mornings to monitor vehicle activity. She is willing to pass out the traffic guidelines brochure to families creating dangerous conditions. The number one motivation is safety of our students.

3. Enrollment Management

- **Open House** – SAC members and other current families are encouraged to attend the open house on January 31, 2010 at 2pm to serve as tour guides to prospective families. Mass is at 1pm and volunteers will need to be at school by 1:45pm. Babysitting will be provided again this year in Mrs. Bridgeman's room with Nicole S. coordinating. Jeryl B. will give the Ready-K parents a presentation in Mrs. Patricca's room. Sr. Joanita will present

to kindergarten families in Mrs. Hofbauer's room. Tour guides will be given a list of items to see and items to discuss with prospective families (Susan McK to provide).

- **School Survey** – Using the on-line survey site doubled our participation in the survey. We received 12 more responses with all positive responses. There were some middle school issues pointed out in the surveys. Susan McK will discuss these with Sr. Joanita. Our teachers were much praised in the comments.
- **Registration** – Registrations are beginning to be received by the school office for our Ready-K and kindergarten programs. All families are encouraged to return their re-enrollment forms to the school office to help us plan for the new school year. Roughly 1/3 of families have returned their forms.

4. Student Life Committee

- Catholic School Week (CSW)
 - CSW runs from January 31 – February 6. The Student Life Committee is sponsoring activities for every day of CSW. Sunday Jan 31 is our all-school mass, open house, and bookfair. Monday is our Spirit Day with an all-school pep rally. Tuesday is our Green day in which students can wear green and will learn from Christina Spohn how to “green” St. Ursula School through recycling and conservation programs. Wednesday Feb 3 is the 100th day of school and will feature a library program to read 100 books by the end of the day. Dennis Bowman will also be on-site for an assembly. Thursday is Hat Day. Friday the Sign-Shiners from the Western Penn. School of the Deaf will be at St. Ursula for a program of music and dancing. Friday is mass day and a fun afternoon – perhaps a school dance or ice cream social. (We are not able to go to Romp N Roll this year.)
 - There will also be a service project during CSW. The committee will also consider doing a bring-someone-to-lunch day, as last year's was so successful.

5. Tuition / Finance

- The finance committee is targeting a 3% increase in tuition for the first student and a 1% increase for all other students. The fundraising assessment will remain at \$500 per family. Ready-K tuition has increased to \$2885 for full day and \$2000 for half day.

6. Greening of St. Ursula – Christina Spohn

- Christina Spohn is a junior at Pine-Richland High School and an alumna of St. Ursula School. She has achieved the highest level in the Girl Scouts program (Ambassador) and is working on her Gold Award project. This project involves 65+ service hours doing a project that is community-based and sustainable. Christina wanted to do a project for St. Ursula School and met with Mrs. Heyl and Sr. Joanita to find out what the school needed. The project selected was the “Greening of St. Ursula School”.
- Christina will volunteer at the school from now until late spring. Her first step is to send out a family survey to find out how much recycling and conservation we do at home. She will conduct age-appropriate lessons for our students on conservation, recycling, litter, and pollution. She will work with teachers and Sr. Joanita to get the kids involved in conservation of water and electricity.
- Her next step is to organize a recycling effort at St. Ursula. In particular, she will work to secure donations of recycling bins for every classroom. She will start a bottle and can recycling program (especially at bingo) and work with parents to move the recyclables to the bins outside. Christina will also organize an electronics recycling day – for both the school's unused electronics and our families'.
- Finally, Christina will do a final survey to see if the program at school has had an impact at home. Media will also be notified. The SAC members thought the project was very worthwhile and appreciate Christina's efforts!

Next SAC Meeting: February 22, 2010 7pm