

# School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Summary

## April 21, 2010

**Present:** Sr. Joanita, Rick B., David C., Susan Mc., Susan M., Jeff S., Ginny S., Amy V.

**Absent:** Jeryl B., Jada D., Jim D., Stephanie L., Lynn R., Gary R., Colleen R., Nicole S., Fr. Dorsey

*Items highlighted in orange represent action items*

### 1. Parish Festival

- Getting close to deciding on the school booth at the festival. The booth will either be an old-fashioned photo booth or one of the ready-made booths from J Robbins. The photo booth is more complex, since we would have to have printers, SD cards, cameras, a place for patrons to change into clothing. Ideas included a dart game with balloons and football throw through a tire. The goal is to get the school booth to make closer to what the other booths make – around \$1,000. (Ours made \$200 the prior year.)
- We will need volunteers to staff the booth the entire week. Ginny S. to coordinate.
- Fr. Dorsey is also working with other area pastors to sell the grand raffle tickets at the end of mass at those churches.

### 2. EITC (Educational Improvement Tax Credit)

- Susan McK received very few company names from SAC members. **Please send her any other leads you may have to help us increase our EITC funds for the next school year. We need that personal contact to get in the door.**
- Ideas that came up at the meeting: JT Tire, Titan Heating, Nutrition, PNC, First Commonwealth, Cleaning Concepts, Schneider Dairy, J Robbins, Hoffman Electric, Wagner's Market, Dr. Jaconski.
- We will do promoting of these companies via ads in school programs, through the bulletin, etc.

### 3. Enrollment Numbers / Holy Spirit Closing

- We currently have 27 kindergarteners, a full Ready-K class at 14 students, and 8 on the Ready-K wait list. Fr. Dorsey needs to be able to cover salary and benefits for two teachers, which is a minimum of 2 more students before opening the second class.
- Jeryl, Chuck F., Sr. Joanita, and Susan McK attended the presentation night at Holy Spirit, which is closing after this school year. Ten schools were in attendance. Two families are scheduled to shadow at St. Ursula.

### 4. Volunteer Recognition

- The question went out to the group about having a volunteer recognition similar to last year – Friday school mass and reception following. The issue that came up was the working parents were unable to attend. In addition, Susan McK tallied the list of parents who volunteer at the school and it is nearly every family. It would be nice to do something that would recognize all parents' efforts.
- It was decided to have a recognition reception following the art show/ kindergarten showcase/band concert. Susan McK will coordinate. We will investigate if there are funds to purchase a small gift as a token of our appreciation. We will provide refreshments and maybe have Sr. Joanita speak briefly about our appreciation to families which volunteer at our school.

### 5. Miscellaneous

- Stephanie L and Jada D. will work with the students to create prayer cards / get well cards for those parishioners on the prayer list.
- We will pursue obtaining some library and Pre-K furniture and items from schools that are closing this year. Direct Supply has also offered to allow us to purchase furniture at cost.
- Susan McK will send out the SAC survey to find out our current member preferences for the 2010-11 school year.

#### **6. Eight and Seventh Grade Math**

- Sr. Joanita described the normal method for dividing our 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade classes for Algebra and Pre-Algebra. Usually there are two groups; however, due to the class size, this year's 8<sup>th</sup> grade class was not split.
- Sr. Joanita and the math teachers take into account many factors: Sixth grade Terra Nova test scores, grades, and Successmaker progress.
- Pre-Algebra starts in 7<sup>th</sup> grade for some, while others will continue in regular 7<sup>th</sup> grade math.
- The students also have to complete the 8<sup>th</sup> grade math requirements before starting on Algebra.
- Thus, some students will take Algebra I in high school while others obtain a teacher's letter so they can begin Algebra II.
- There was discussion about how the parents and students have had no visibility to the progress our students are making on Successmaker this year. The printer has not been working all year so reports cannot be printed. Sr. Joanita is working on a fix for this.
- The SAC recommends that the faculty and/or Sr. Joanita send a detailed note home to parents of students entering 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade to describe the process of choosing the math curriculum for their student. This would help to alleviate questions and parents would know going into the year where their child is placed.

***Next SAC Meeting: May 26, 2010 7pm***

***(This is a rescheduled date!)***

***Summer SAC Meeting: Rescheduled for June 30, 2010***