

Format for Committee Reports St. John Vianney Parish

Name of Committee: School Committee

Date of Meeting: February 27, 2017

Members Present: Lynn Byrne, Chair
Jennie Minessale, Vice-Chair
Palma Forte, Secretary
Joseph Budovec
Barb Corby
AnnMarie Hoyme
Elizabeth Lange
JoAnn Cekanor, Pastoral Council Liaison
Laura Russell, Home & School Liaison
President Pam Pyzyk, ex-officio
Principal Dan Demeter, ex-officio

Members Absent: Barbara Bongard
Joy Graf

Guests: Courtney Albright, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Chloe Kilian, Third Grade Teacher
Gerise Grzeczak, Fourth Grade Teacher
Kate McRae, K5 Teacher

1. Topics/Issues/Projects/Strategic Plan Initiatives Discussed

- President's Report - Annual Fund Update - \$84,473.00 pledged to date; \$60,602.34 paid to date with pledge; \$40,095.18 paid to date with no pledge; \$100,697.52 (representing 50.4% of set goal of \$200,000.00) paid to date. If all pledges are fulfilled, we are currently trending at \$124,568.18. Phone calls will be placed in March to the 28 parishioners in the Pacesetter Division that have not yet participated in this year's campaign with either a pledge or a donation. We are looking to roll out the Alumni Division yet within this campaign year. To date, all 3,100 St. John Vianney alumni listed in the alumni database have been cross referenced with the parish database to determine alumni that are current parishioners to update their information. The Long Range Planning subcommittee has read through the alumni in the graduating classes of 1957 through 2000 and has attempted to identify at least one alumnae from each year that that is still a parishioner or who has parents that remain parishioners. Initially, captains were going to be assigned to each graduation year to reach out and try to obtain and update information. The subcommittee chairperson looked into the cost for an outside service to update the database information, and the fees are very reasonable at only a couple of hundred dollars. Due to the extensive manpower hours that will be required to obtain updated information, it was discussed and decided that we would be going forward with an outside service to update the alumni database information. In May, letters will be sent out to those included in the Grandparents and Special Person Division inviting them to again participate in the campaign. Also in May, fulfill the pledge letters will be sent out to all those parishioners who have made a pledge but have not yet fulfilled their pledge. A final fulfill the pledge letter will be mailed out the first week of June.

K4 Program Update - Seven additional tours were provided to prospective K4 families between

February 7th and February 23rd. As of February 27th, 36 of the 40 K4 spots have been filled, and paperwork has been offered to an additional four families. When accepting registration paperwork, families have seven days to complete the registration process after which time the spot can be offered to another family. Of the 36 filled K4 spots, 26 are registered for the full day program, 8 are requesting the morning half-day program, and 2 remain undecided at this time.

Projected Enrollment for 2017-2018 - Current enrollment is 375. As of February 27th, enrollment for 2017-2018 K4-8th grade students with registration paperwork and deposit turned in stands at 348. Currently, we have paperwork but are still waiting to receive deposits for 7 students of current families; we are waiting for registration paperwork and deposit for 6 students of current families; we have also provided tours and given paperwork for an additional 4 prospective K4 students. If all of those students return registration and deposit, projected enrollment for 2017-2018 would stand at 365 students plus any new enrollees after February 27, 2017.

- Principal's Report - Curriculum Update - Student Centered Learning - In recent years, the model for teaching has shifted from teacher-centered to student-centered. The goal is for the students to be active, engaged and more responsible for their learning, while the teacher acts as a facilitator, guide, and coach. Promoting this type of learning will help students to develop the higher level thinking skills needed to prepare them for high school and life. SJV is doing the following to support this model: (1) Inquiry based learning - a question, problem, or scenario is posed to the students, rather than simply presenting facts and information. The students must then use their resources and higher level thinking skills to solve the issue posed to them. (a) K5 STEAM Centers - (science, technology, engineering, art and math) - students are given a guiding theme or question, such as winter weather, and they complete different activities that relate to their understanding of winter weather at each of the five stations. The movement from station to station is very fluid and completely student-centered. (2) Project based learning - is a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging and complex question, problem, or challenge. Development will be provided to teachers to begin to implement these concepts in the spring, especially in science and social studies. An example is "How did World War I cause World War II?" - students must then research and create a teacher-approved project that tackles this question. (3) Breaks from "traditional" teaching methods - set days in which teachers do not use textbooks, workbooks, or assign homework; the teaching promotes the joy of learning through academic games, projects, etc.

Virtue Based Restorative Discipline (VBRD) Update and the Read-a-Thon for Peru - The school is continuing to promote its third quarter service theme "small acts that promote great love." The upcoming focus is the Read-a-Thon for Peru taking place the week of February 27th. The purpose is for students to collect pledges for the amount of minutes that they read during the week of February 27th. Every student and staff member is being challenged to participate, and teachers will take a very active role in promoting and encouraging the program. Each day there will be a fun activity to promote and encourage the read-a-thon.

- Teacher's Reports - Courtney Albright - Teacher development days were held on February 17th and 20th at St. Dominic's. Middle school social studies teacher Frances Dempsey was one of the presenters. Part of the development curriculum was student assessments and how to assess more than just student regurgitation of facts, but rather assessing what students really know. On February 20th the teachers attended Sustaining the Mission for faith education. The third grade has been learning about animals and the food chain and how animals interact with each other in science class.

The fourth grade is continuing to prepare for their attendance at BizTown on Friday, March 3, 2017. The fourth grade's seminarian connection Carlos Londono assigned 6 saints for the students to research and prepare slide presentations.

The K5 students are participating in biweekly S.T.E.A.M. centers. (science, technology,

engineering, art and math)- A theme is chosen and the students are presented with 5 centers, such as designing an igloo using an ipad and using classroom objects like blocks and sticks to build the igloo. The students choose their stations and have been successfully self-regulating and not spending all of their time at one station.

- Home & School Report - Bids for Kids Auction was successful - still waiting on final number for net profit; proceeds will be used to purchase 10 smartboards and the boy and girls bathrooms on the primary wing will be remodeled.
- Sub-Committee Chair Reports - Advancement - After discussion regarding the difficulty in finding groups to provide the manpower for the SJV table at the Brookfield Farmer's Market, it was decided that SJV would discontinue its attendance at the Brookfield Farmer's Market. This will be SJV's third year in attendance at the Brookfield 4th of July Parade. The school's exemplary awards have been the focus of the first two years. This year's plan is to highlight our 60th anniversary.
K4 and K5 Open Houses Recap - Since only 5 families attended the morning open house in January, it was decided to hold 2 evening open houses, instead of one morning and one evening open house, in January 2018. It was also determined that the best days of the week for the evening open houses are Monday and Thursday. The dates decided for the open houses next year are January 8, 2018, and January 11, 2018. Furthermore, future K4 open houses will be marketed as brief informational sessions followed by tours.
Our building project will be completed by Christmas, and a building dedication Mass to be presided over by Archbishop ListECKI, is being planned for Sunday, January, 28, 2018, of Catholic Schools Week. Mass will be followed by the Open House to which parishioners, school families, and alumni will be invited. Also, the start time for Catholic Schools Week open houses is being changed from 12:15 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Policy - Changes to two policies have been made and approved by the School Committee. School uniforms will now be worn by K4 students. The only change necessary to accomplish this goal was to delete K5 from the title and change it to K4, making the school uniform policy applicable to K4-8th Grade. The School Committee also discussed and approved the changes to the classroom size policy: maximum classroom size for K4 was increased from 20 to 24, and the sentence regarding altering classroom maximums to accommodate siblings was deleted as the practice is not being utilized.

The subcommittee also continues to discuss snacks and allergies and is in the process of contacting 10-12 schools to see what policies they have and how they are handling snacks and allergens.

Long Range Planning - Alumni Database - was discussed in President's report. Parent Survey - Was approved by pastoral staff February 23; one question regarding VBRD was added to the survey.

Finance - Many hours were spent on the budget which was submitted and being presented to the Finance Committee

2. Decisions Made

- An outside service, at a cost of only a couple hundred dollars, will be used to update the information in the alumni database. Quotes will be obtained.

3. Follow-up Work – Person (s) Responsible

4. Next Meeting: Date/Major Agenda Items

March 13, 2017

To: Pastoral Council

- **FYI. No action needed at this time**
- **Please put us on your next agenda. See attachment.**
- **We need direction, please. See attachment.**
- **Other:**