

Format for Committee Reports

St. John Vianney Parish

School Committee

Date of Meeting: September 14, 2015

Members Present:

Abe Fisher (Chair)
Tricia Piette (Vice Chair)
Elizabeth Lange
Maureen Bouda (Secretary)
Lynn Byrne
Jennie Minessale
Barb Corby

Members Absent:

Ex-officio:

Pamela Pyzyk, President
Daniel Demeter, Principal
JoAnn Cekanor, Pastoral Council Liaison
Laura Russell and Stephanie Rossi, Home & School Liaisons

Guests:

Gloria Goss – Learning Support
Kate McRae – K5 Teacher
Deb Blaha – MS Math

1. Topics, Issues and Projects Discussed:

President Report –

Enrollment: 403. Pam is giving tours for prospective families for the 2016-17 school year. SJV was showcased on FOX6 this morning for contributing to “Coats for Kids” for the past 22 years. They collected 251 coats on the first day of this year’s campaign. The Annual Fund annual report has been drafted and distributed to cabinet members for proofreading and editing. They will meet on Thursday evening, September 17th to approve the final draft. This will go to the printer and be mailed prior to the next campaign which is being kicked off on the weekend of October 10-11th. “One ask” will be going out for three things - Annual Fund, weekly contribution stewardship and the capital campaign. Capital campaign includes a more secure office entrance.

Principal Report – (handout)

1. Some school improvement goals are: Catholic Identity, Differentiation of teaching (can't have a one size fits all for teaching students), Assessments (how to assess students ability and get meaningful results).
2. MAPS Testing is a computerized test that is responsive to each individual student. It allows teachers to identify strengths and areas of growth for each student. Tests are given in Fall, Winter and Spring. Each time students take a reading, language arts and math test over a two-week span (reading and math only in K5-2nd grade). Fall testing window: Sept. 10-24.
3. A uniform math series, GO MATH, was adopted in grades K5-8th grade. It encourages critical and creative thinking skills and focuses on the “why” of math. It was recommended to us by HS math teachers to truly prepare our students for math at the HS level.
4. There is a new grading scale. Per the Archdiocese, pluses and minuses have been eliminated for uniformity across the Arch, this creates a level playing field for HS and many schools, including Elmbrook, have gone to this system.
5. Middle School Electives model the traditional middle school schedule and will prepare our students for HS. Students are required to take one art and one music class per year.
6. Teachers and administration are getting up and running on PowerSchool. It's a new student information system that will be adopted by all Archdiocesan schools by the 2016-2017 school year. It's an online gradebook, tracks attendance, lunch count, can post announcements to parents and has a downloadable parent app. The parent portal will be rolled out shortly.

Subcommittee Updates – Strategic Plan Updates & School Committee Input

Finance – Maureen Bouda

Met with Pam Pyzyk and Randy Freeman regarding a comprehensive Benchmarking Project. School Committee has done its own benchmarking project in past years with nearby schools (tuition, fees, cost to educate). Randy's study will include more in depth questions and will focus on schools of similar size to SJV. Met with Pam to review the July 2015 financial statements.

Advancement – Elizabeth Lange

SJV participated in July 4th parade for the first time and it was a big success. We will work on participation at the Farmers Market. Baptism cards have been sent out. SJV baby bibs have been ordered and the Stepping Stones letters will be mailed soon. Open House dates are set: morning of Friday, January 8th and the evening of January 12th. April 6th has been selected as “Bring a Friend Day.”

Long Range Planning – Lynn Byrne

Currently updating the Shamrock Success with new data from the 2014-15 school year. Goal is to go home with the first report card in November. LRP discussed the Parent Survey. A meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 18th, to discuss and compile SJV strengths and challenges as determined by the survey. The committee is looking to create a summary of results with graphics to also be distributed to parents with report cards in November. LRP will review the Exemplary Awards and decide which awards SJV should pursue.

Policy – Tricia Piette

First meeting is next week.

Pastoral Council Liaison Report

School Committee will complete and finalize our member roster.

Teacher Reports

Kate McRae – K5 Teacher

Kids come into Kindergarten at varying abilities so the two K5 teachers will work together using differentiation methods. There will be cross grouping across classrooms to really meet the needs of all students of all abilities – all while keeping it fun and learning appropriate.

Deb Blaha – middle school math.

New direction this year with the GO MATH books. High school teachers from MUHS, DSHA, PIUS and CMHS assessed various middle school math programs to see what would best prepare SJV students for HS. The new GO MATH books use formats that students will need in HS and AP classes (students learn how to explain answers instead of simply providing an answer). Middle school math is also utilizing differentiation methods in the classroom.

Gloria Goss – learning resource specialist for the middle school.

There is a noticeable positivity throughout the middle school.

Home & School

Successful Orientation Day and Back to School Bash. On the first day of school the Hospitality Committee and Mentoring Committees put together the first monthly morning coffee. There was a very positive response. Recurring coffees will be on the first Tuesday of the month. H&S is looking to fill committee chairs and are in search of a Bids for Kids co-chair. Trivia Night coming up on October 17th.

2. Decisions Made:

- Open House dates are set: morning of Friday, January 8th and the evening of January 12th.

- April 6th has been selected as “Bring a Friend Day.”
- New roster and meeting dates were reviewed and updated

3. Follow Up Work – Person(s) Responsible:

- Update the School Committee roster with accurate information (Maureen Bouda)
- Review Strategic Plan and due dates (all committee members)
- Recruit new School Committee members to discern (all committee members)

4. Next Meeting: October 12, 2015

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