

April 18, 2011

Those Present: Bill Schenkelberg, Ann Marie White, Phil Tallmadge, Mike Urban, Jon Sohn, Mary Jo Maslowski, Rob Reilly, Fr. Dave, John Chovanec, and Danita Stich. Guests: Dan Jungen, Mindy Hughes, Jamie Keyes, Jane Pittman, Katherine Noran, and Michael Auchter, School Board Nominees.

SMART Team Presentation

The St. Dominic 8th grade S.M.A.R.T. (Students Modeling a Research Topic) Team, led by Ms. Donna LaFlamme, impressively presented the results of its four month study of the motor protein cytoplasmic dynein. This study, conducted under the mentorship of Dr. Jason Bader of the Medical College of Wisconsin, explained the role of dynein in positioning chromosomes during mitosis. The S.M.A.R.T. team students have worked diligently two nights per week for the past four months studying this specific protein. Congratulations to the SMART team on a successful presentation at the Medical College and another successful year participating in the program.

Opening Prayer – Ann Marie White

Open Forum

School Board Nominees for the 2011-2012 school-year were invited to observe tonight's meeting. After a brief introduction by school board members, those nominees in attendance introduced themselves and listened to a summary of the nature of the school board meetings.

Revisit School Uniform Policy

To enhance hygiene and comfort, gym uniforms are being considered for the 2011-2012 school-year. Since other quad parish schools require gym uniforms, John Chovanec contacted them to determine how these schools manage their policy, specifically seeking information on how these schools address supervision, modesty issues, potential bullying, and storage and laundering concerns. Quad school contacts did not indicate any problems with their respective use of gym uniforms and shared that the physical education teacher, not the classroom teacher, assumes responsibility for overall supervision. While the School Board agrees that parent and teacher concerns expressed at the last meeting concerning modesty are valid, they noted the other quad schools did not communicate any significant problems. Fr. Dave requested that John Chovanec and the faculty work through the details necessary to allow for the potential implementation of a gym uniform policy. It was suggested a policy be established by the May meeting and a member vote be taken. Mike Urban requested a clarification of the School Board's authority over implementation of the gym uniforms. Bill Schenkelberg clarified that the Uniform Policy is under the discretion of the School Board. Rob Reilly suggested requiring gym uniforms for grades 5 or 6 through grade 8, since these grades have longer gym periods. The decision to extend the policy to the 4th grade could be revisited in the future. John Chovanec will meet with the teachers to discuss the details of an implementation plan.

Bill Schenkelberg confirmed with the Athletic Board and the Building and Grounds Committee that they will not require students participating in day school gym classes to have a dedicated pair of gym shoes to be worn solely on the new floor. Rather, they support the continuance of the current policy requiring non-marking soles. No further Board action was deemed necessary. However, Fr. Dave suggested that a shoe policy be written and included in the Athletic Board's Rules and Regulations thereby providing guidance to all groups using the new gym.

Parish Update – Fr. Dave

- The recent grade school Lenten Reconciliation went very well. Fr. Dave received positive feedback from the Priests assisting with the day regarding the preparedness and behavior of the students.
- Many vibrant faith celebrations will be taking place during the Easter season including the May Crowning, First Eucharist, Confirmation, and Ordination. Fr. Dave encouraged family participation in all of the upcoming Faith celebrations and recommended families consider attending the upcoming Ordination at the Cathedral.
- Within the next 3-4 weeks, Fr. Dave anticipates visible progress on the construction project. During Spring Break, contractors will continue working on various construction tasks.

To Seek Christ, Know Christ, and Become Christ, each one for the sake of all

- As the budget process for the upcoming year is nearing completion, Fr. Dave extended his thanks to the School Board for their assistance with encouraging stewardship.

Principal's Report – John Chovanec

- Current enrollment numbers were distributed for review. Enrollment has slowed over the recent weeks, but John expects that it will pick up after spring break.
- In May, Parish members with children who will be three by September 1st will be contacted to promote the K3 program. The School Board offered assistance with this solicitation. Jane Pittman, guest nominee, asked whether a prospective K3 child could visit the current K3 class while it is in session. John Chovanec indicated that a prospective K3 child would be allowed to visit a classroom with advance notification.
- A 6% tuition increase was announced in the school newsletter last week. New verbiage pertaining to the Parish subsidy in the Tuition Payment Contract was reviewed and discussed. The School Board will electronically draft and review proposed wording for the subsidy clause and submit its recommendation to John Chovanec.
- Mrs. Bischof and Mrs. Caronna have announced their retirement. John estimates that the process to fill the open positions will be completed sometime in June.
- Danita Stich shared that 14 of 49 8th grade students scored 100% in the Language Arts section of the WKCE tests.

Topic Discussion/Updates

- Danita Stich has raised \$10,000 toward new playground equipment for the pre-school children. The vendor is in the process of determining grant availability. If the grant is still available, St. Dominic could acquire the playground equipment for \$11,200. Danita is considering a fundraiser, targeting parents of K3-K5 children, to obtain the funds necessary to cover the remaining cost of the equipment, its ground preparation, and its installation. A formal proposal, including building specifications and a summary of expenses, will need to be prepared for the approval by the Finance Committee and Buildings and Grounds for this non-budgeted item. Rob Reilly will assist Danita with vendor price negotiations.
- Mary Jo Maslowski spoke with Rich Harter regarding city-imposed restrictions on banners. Temporary banners on buildings, like the festival banner, seem to be permissible. However, the recommendation is to postpone purchasing a banner until the construction is completed. Mary Jo also spoke with Meg Picciolo about the purchase of an interior banner that would promote St. Dominic's receipt of the Archdiocesan Award for Innovative Programs. It was concluded that a banner purchase should be postponed until construction is completed to ensure proper size and placement. The School Board discussed other ideas to promote St. Dominic's receipt of the Archdiocesan Award.
- Ann Marie White provided the guest nominees with a background about the current ideas the School Board is considering to enhance the return rate of stewardship pledge cards by school families. School Board members agreed to revisit this topic at the next Board meeting.
- Bill Schenkelberg will follow-up with all of the School Board nominees to verify their intent to run for School Board. School Board elections will be held on May 21-22. School Board members will need to be in attendance at the voting station after Masses. Electronic voting will be available for school families. Nominee bios will be due by May 4. Past nominee bios are on the Web site for reference. The two nominees with the most votes will each be granted a three-year term position on the School Board. If a one year term becomes available due to board member resignation, the School Board would appoint the seat for the remaining one-year term position.
- General information from Marquette High pertaining to entrance exam scores was distributed and reviewed by the School Board at the last meeting. Bill Schenkelberg received similar information from Catholic Memorial High School and distributed the information electronically to the School Board. Requested information from Divine Savior has not yet been received.
- It was proposed that the School Board submit any suggested revisions to the Handbook electronically to Bill Schenkelberg by May 14. Bill will compile the information and share it with John Chovanec. John will share any Handbook revisions with the Faculty in May.

Open Forum Notification Amendment

A hard copy of the Amendment to the St. Dominic School Board By-Laws was distributed. Mike Urban moved to accept the new amendment as presented. Mary Jo Maslowski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously approved.

School Board Goals – Review of Progress

Blue Ribbon School/Exemplary Designation: Ann Marie White, Bill Schenkelberg, Phil Tallmadge, Mike Urban
Sub-committee members continue preparing responses to anticipated application questions for the Blue Ribbon application expected to be submitted next fall. Actual filing depends upon Iowa test scores which have not yet been received.

Catholic Identity: Mary Jo Maslowski, Mike Urban, Ann Marie White

The first meeting of the Catholic Identity Committee consisted of introductions and a review of the Mission Statement for St. Dominic School. The next steps include reviewing six characteristics that are pertinent to Catholic Identity and identifying goals and related action plans to allow enhanced celebration of our Catholic Identity at St. Dominic School.

By-Law Review: Phil Tallmadge, Rob Reilly, Bill Schenkelberg, Mary Jo Maslowski

Archdiocesan guidelines have been requested but still not received. Upon receipt, the sub-committee will begin the review process.

Test Score Trends: Jon Sohn, Rob Reilly, Mike Urban

WKCE test results have been received. The sub-committee will begin trending historical and current WKCE test results for further analysis. The Iowa test scores are expected by the end of April.

Academic Enrichment: Jon Sohn, Bill Schenkelberg, Rob Reilly

By the next School Board meeting, the sub-committee will be prepared to share the various enrichment ideas, including the identification of necessary resources and their related cost. Rob Reilly recently spent time with Governor Walker and shared that the Governor's intentions for school reform include both public and private schools. An annual testing requirement could become part of the Governor's reform plans. From a budgetary and process perspective, St. Dominic School should be prepared.

Other

- School Board nominees inquired as to how sub-committee topics were determined and current members explained that these topics are voted on and reviewed with Fr. Dave and John Chovanec at the beginning of each new term.
- Fr. Dave expressed desire to enhance alumni communications and suggested possible School Board involvement with enhancing and maintaining this connection.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann Marie White, Secretary
Dena Fura, Recording Secretary