

May 16, 2011

Those Present: Bill Schenkelberg, Ann Marie White, Phil Tallmadge, Mike Urban, Mary Jo Maslowski, Rob Reilly, Fr. Dave, John Chovanec, and Danita Stich. Excused: Jon Sohn.

Opening Prayer – Ann Marie White

Open Forum

None

Gym Uniform Policy – Bill Schenkelberg

- John Chovanec spoke with Coach Centella about the prospect of utilizing gym uniforms during the gym periods for certain grades. After considering this and other faculty input, the board decided to mandate gym uniforms for students in grades 6-8. Parents with children going into grades 6-8 will be asked to purchase a standard uniform over the summer. It was brought up that a parish family may be able to manufacture and provide the uniforms. John Chovanec indicated that he will follow up with the family to ascertain its capabilities. If that option is not feasible, uniforms will need to be purchased from Burghardt's for an approximate total cost of \$16. Bill Schenkelberg will verify the ordering procedure with Burghardt's personnel and the School Board will draft the communication to be sent home to parents explaining the new policy prior to the end of the school year.
- Phil Tallmadge made a motion to require a standard gym uniform for grades 6-8. Mike Urban seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill Schenkelberg noted the uniform policy contained in the St. Dominic Handbook would need to be amended. John Chovanec further indicated that consequences for forgetting a gym uniform would be part of the policy addressed in the school handbook. A recommendation to reiterate the new policy at Curriculum Night was suggested.

Parish Update – Fr. Dave

- St. Dominic had a very lovely celebration of First Eucharist this past weekend.
- Fr. Dave provided a brief update on the building project, sharing that additional parking will be available to the west of the new building during the parish festival. Further, he reported that progress has been made on the stage area in the new Arts and Activities Center. In spite of the challenging wet weather, progress on the facilities continues to be made.
- Fr. Dave extended a warm thanks to John Chovanec, Danita Stich, and the rest of the faculty for another successful school year. He also thanked the School Board for their service.
- Fr. Dave suggested implementation of a chronological log that would document significant actions taken by the School Board. The School Board further discussed potential content and format.

Principal's Report – John Chovanec

- Current enrollment numbers were distributed. Enrollment, particularly in K3, has not increased as expected. Discussion ensued about ways to increase K3 enrollment over the next few weeks, including the possibility of conducting an Open House and personally contacting parishioners with children who are K3 eligible in the fall.
- John Chovanec met with the faculty to determine if there are necessary updates to the Handbook. Revisions will be made this summer.
- John Chovanec will be attending an Archdiocesan Data Retreat. The First in Math program will be evaluated to determine its contribution to the enhancement of Iowa test scores. However, since annual Iowa testing is not conducted, measurement of the program's success enhancing test scores may not be currently determinable. Additionally, John reported that teachers will be updating their writing alignment grids over the summer and reviewing their writing curriculum in accordance with new state standards.
- The Iowa Test results were distributed for review. Based on current application requirements for math and reading test scores, it appears that St. Dominic has achieved scores sufficient to apply for a Blue Ribbon designation. The Blue Ribbon subcommittee will continue drafting anticipated application essays so that they will be ready for the early fall application deadline. It was noted, however, that final eligibility requirements and application questions would not be known with certainty until early fall. Discussion clarifying the

percentile interpretation of St. Dominic's test results ensued. After reiterating that the Iowa Tests are a national test, the School Board discussed the importance of annual testing to allow for more meaningful trend analysis and program success. Additionally, the Board noted that annualized testing would give students more exposure to the test taking process. Current budget constraints were noted. The School Board will work with John Chovanec to determine the actual cost of annualized testing and will suggest possible ways to fund annualized testing. The results of this will be summarized and communicated to the Finance Committee next year to encourage making annual testing a priority.

- The School Board then discussed the current fee structure. It was proposed to evaluate the fee structure and identify potential improvements, including the possibility of adding a question about it to the School Survey.
- This fall, the teachers will attend training on the types and methods of assessing and communicating student grades through Carroll College. John Chovanec plans to have all of the teachers go through the first session. Subsequent training will be available for those teachers looking for continuing education credit. Ann Marie White noted that Assessment was a topic on the Blue Ribbon School award application.
- John Chovanec is working to fill the positions for the two teachers who are retiring. By the end of May, John would like to finalize the current staff positions and begin interviews for open positions this summer. The School Board offered assistance with the interviewing process.
- As the school year is coming to an end, Mary Jo Maslowski asked the School Board if they were aware of any outstanding concerns of parents with children in the first grade. School Board members concluded the concerns presented last year about the large class sizes seem to have been addressed.

Topic Discussion/Updates

- Danita Stich met with the playground equipment vendor last week. The vendor offered a \$17,000 playground set for \$11,300. The vendor sent the requested specifications, and Danita and John Chovanec are presenting the proposal to the Building and Grounds Committee on Thursday. As of the School Board meeting date, \$4,000 was still needed to finalize the project. Interested parties can make checks payable to St. Dominic with Playground Fund in the memo section of the check. Danita indicated that ground preparation and chips will be donated and installation would occur after the festival. Rob Reilly will contact the vendor to negotiate installation.
- The School Board briefly discussed ways to remind School families that completion of a Stewardship pledge form will be required to obtain parishioner tuition, such as a verbal communication at Curriculum Night and written communication in the Family Folders.
- School Board elections will be conducted during Masses on May 21-22. Electronic voting for School families will be available until 4:00 p.m. on May 23. Two of the three nominees will be elected. One person will be appointed by the School Board for a one year term. School Board coverage for the elections during the weekend Masses was finalized. Bill Schenkelberg will be at St. Dominic on the morning of the 23rd to collect paper ballots submitted by School families.
- Bill Schenkelberg distributed the general information he received from CMHS pertaining to entrance exam scores for School Board review and analysis. Requested information from Divine Savior Holy Angels has not yet been received.
- A compiled list of proposed revisions to the Handbook has been submitted by the School Board. The revisions were given to John Chovanec for review and consideration.

School Board Goals – Review of progress

Blue Ribbon School/Exemplary Designation: Ann Marie White, Bill Schenkelberg, Phil Tallmadge, Mike Urban
Iowa Test score results have been received. As exiting School Board members, Ann Marie White and Phil Tallmadge will pass along any prepared Blue Ribbon School application drafts to Bill Schenkelberg. Work to complete the application will continue into the summer. It was noted that the Blue Ribbon School award is not an easy award to achieve, so expectations should be managed. A determination of which Archdiocesan Exemplary Award to pursue in the fall will also need to be made, with Catholic Identity being highlighted as an area with potential.

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

The Committee is meeting on Thursday, May 19 and Thursday, May 26 to go over the six characteristics of Catholic Identity. Over the summer, the goal is to have a summary assessment completed. In the fall, the summary will be reviewed and three goals and related action plans will be identified for the school-year. A plan to celebrate our Catholic Identity in some way will also be addressed.

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

The next Archdiocesan Co-Hort meeting is on Thursday. Bill continues to wait for the by-law information that he had requested from the Archdiocese.

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

Now that Iowa Test scores have been obtained, trending can begin. By the next meeting, more composite trends will be distributed.

Academic Enrichment: Jon Sohn, Bill Schenkelberg, Rob Reilly

The sub-committee has brainstormed ideas that can augment academic enrichment opportunities. This list will be distributed to School Board members electronically.

Other

It was proposed that the School Board meetings for the 2011-2012 school -year will continue to be the third Monday of the month, with the exception of January. The School Board's next meeting is June 13 at 6:30 p.m..

A brief discussion about the use of Web Grader ensued.

Meeting Adjourned.

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