

St. Gregory School Board Minutes  
November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
6pm

Present: Lisa Azzopardi, Sandy Brook, Jody DiMauro, Donna DeBenedetti, Bill Gatt, Carole Lozito, Frank Marinaro, Bishop McElroy, Alan Priest, Lorraine Paul, Mike Pearl, Ron Rock, Cindy Stuart, Linda Tribuzi

Not present: Mike Callagy, Tom Finn

1. Opening Prayer – Bishop McElroy
2. Welcome – Mike Pearl
3. Principal Report – Lorraine Paul
  - We are looking forward to a very fun and successful auction!
  - Report cards (Sandy Brook) – Report cards will be in a new format this quarter; they will be more skills/standards based report cards. Standards based report cards don't reflect an average – they are a reflection of where the child is RIGHT NOW, regardless of where s/he has come from. Twenty schools are piloting the new report cards, and the committee will meet again at the end of the year for feedback and making adjustments. There is a strong commitment on part of the Archdiocese to move toward standards based assessment throughout the Archdiocese. In K – 2<sup>nd</sup> students will be assessed as "at," "above," "below," or "working toward" the standard. This is intended to provide more specific information for parents, but it's very different, so there will be questions. 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> will look the least different in terms of language. 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade report cards have been amended to be more like high school; they include coded remarks, such as "thinks critically" or "does not participate in class." Strength in a given area means that the student is significantly above the standard; weakness in a given standard means that s/he is significantly below. Again, this is a pilot program, and the report cards will be analyzed and adjusted so that they provide the best possible feedback for parents. The report cards are drafts – not perfect – the effort is in the content, not design. Non-core subjects aren't graded with a letter grade – they are pass/no pass.
  - Annual Fund is coming in slowly but steadily – \$7000 at this point – and is earmarked for technology and financial aid.
  - Kindergarten Playground and Canopy Project Report
4. Pastor Report – Bishop McElroy  
Nothing to report.
5. Fundraising – Ron Rock
  - We fell almost \$4000 short in our wrapping paper fundraising this year. Can we use our resources better, so that we maximize the potential of the fundraisers that we do have?
  - It was mentioned that offers of assistance in this particular fundraiser – wrapping paper – were rebuked, and that perhaps we need to find ways to utilize our community's talents and energy to their full potential. (It was noted that this year's auction committee is doing an exceptional job.)
  - It was mentioned that we don't do much – we do some, but we could do more – to market (encourage participation, increase awareness, provide updates and feedback) the fundraisers that we do have.
  - It was suggested that we could do the wrapping paper fundraiser at a different time of the school year, but for various reasons, the timing is pretty set.
  - Mike Pearl summarized: we need a plan that formalizes fundraising protocols: who runs a given fundraiser, how it is executed, who participates in the marketing, etc. Mike will work on this and revisit at the next meeting.
6. Budget concerns
  - There was significant conversation around the financial information that was published in the bulletin a few weeks ago. Some of the information contained therein is inaccurate, and some is a bit confusing because of the software the Archdiocese uses.
  - Is there a limit on how much financial aid we give? The short answer is "no." Bishop explained that the school is subsidized – through the festival – the same amount, per child, as is the

religious education program. Some endowed funds support financial aid, as well as some non-endowed scholarships. Need is assessed at the beginning of the year, and approximately \$45,000 is dedicated to financial aid; throughout the school year, need is assessed and aid provided as necessary. Bishop wanted to be very clear: NO TUITION MONEY GOES TO FINANCIAL AID. NO PROGRAM REDUCTION HAPPENS AS A RESULT OF FINANCIAL AIDE.

- There was a question about cuts in the academic program. In the last 6 years or so, the two significant diminishment have been library and music funding; significant improvements include the acquisition of a resource specialist (Diane Fahrner) and a second full time kindergarten teacher (Courtney Stone). In actuality, the dollar amount spent on programs is significantly up.
- It was noted that this information is not readily available for parents, and that this has everything to do with clear, effective communication.
- It was clearly noted that there is *general* consensus that the teachers are working hard to provide the children with music.
- Back to the discussion of financial aid – Bishop McElroy reiterated that, categorically, as long as he is Pastor, there will be no higher goal than helping students who don't have enough to pay their tuition.
- It was suggested that we have an update, over the course of the year, perhaps every other month, so that we know on an ongoing basis how we are doing financially. Mrs. Paul and Bishop McElroy for the next meeting that an update would be provided at January's meeting.

7. Technology Update – Mike Pearl

- Over Thanksgiving we will switch Internet providers and install wireless throughout the school in order to accommodate the new updates. In January we will have a more robust technology report, but certainly, our first goal will be to target teacher education on the use of technology in the classroom. The question was posed: What exactly is the learning goal of the technology? That will be answered in the January presentation.

8. Escrip – Ron Rock

- We are flat on the Escrip this month – we didn't go up as compared with last year, but we also didn't go down. Ron distributed information about some easy on line shopping options that will earn us some Escrip funds.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

Respectfully submitted by Donna DeBenedetti