

To: Members of St. Edmund School Advisory Board
From: Susan Viselli
Re: Minutes of March 4, 2008 meeting
Date: March 29, 2008

Board members present: Randy Allori, Enrique Lopez, Kerry Lynch, Tracy Maney, Fr. John McGivern, Terry Ozima, Tinki Robinson, Bill Streit, Susan Viselli

Board members excused: Mary Prudence, Beth Purvis

Community members present: Marie Albrecht, Maria Allori, Kakie Conroy-Lovaas, LaVerne Johnson, Dan Kane

I. Opening

The meeting was called to order at 7:12pm in Murphy Hall. The opening prayer was given by Randy Allori. A motion was made to approve the minutes from the February 5 2008 meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

II. Public Comments - None

III. FSC update – Marie Albrecht reported that \$750 has been raised to date for the Heifer Project. The ProKids presentation was successful. The monthly Market Day sale will take place tomorrow and the Chili dinner will take place on Saturday after the 5:30pm mass. The Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday March 15, in the school gym. The cost is \$5 / person. Lego Club will meet on March 18. On March 19 a petting zoo will be in the parking lot, to thank the students for their participation in the Heifer Project. That same day will also be “Hats On Day” to raise money for children with cancer.

IV. Alumni Outreach update – Dan Kane reported that the Elegant Evening fundraiser mailing was sent to 1245 alumni yesterday. The alumni database was updated prior to this mailing. It is anticipated that some letters will be returned and the database will continue to be updated on an ongoing basis.

V. Old Business

A. February Open House events – Six to eight families attended each of these open house events. Children in these families are at various grade levels. Three to four families were interested in junior high.

B. 2008-2009 Registration – To date, 51 students are registered. This number includes thirty current families and eight new families. There are five incomplete applications. A second letter was sent to current families on February 28 and some phone calls have been made. It is anticipated that more registrations will be completed soon.

C. Dominican / Hephzibah and school holiday and summer programs – Dominican University liaison Dr. Therese Hogan reported today to Susan Viselli that the Dominican partnership with Hephzibah only relates to the summer reading program at Dominican University. Therefore they are unable to facilitate our students utilizing Hephzibah holiday and summer programs. Fr. McGivern asked board members if they thought St. Edmund families would use this program. There was consensus that they would. He then offered to contact Hephzibah Association directly about this possibility.

D. Satisfaction survey – Mary Prudence provided a draft of a survey to be distributed to families. It was discussed that no mention be made of the School Improvement Process since some families were not in our school during this mandatory accreditation last year. A new title, “We Listen to Our Parents,” was proposed to replace “Your Voice is Important.” A reordering of some questions was also suggested. By consensus it was decided that the survey be put on hold for now and incorporated into end-of-year materials and registration drive.

VI. New Business

A. Additional Open House dates – Thursday April 3 and Thursday May 15 were selected as dates for additional open house events. These events will be promoted via the sign along Oak Park Avenue, as well as by ads in Pioneer Press newspapers (Oak Leaves, Forest Leaves, Elm Leaves) and Wednesday Journal (and Forest Park Journal.) Additionally, a listing will be placed in the calendar sections of these newspapers. A flyer will be prepared to specifically target the PreK offerings. These will be distributed to school families and to RE families. Only PreK will be described, in consideration to RE families who have chosen to send older children to public schools.

B. Tuition and fees for 2008-2009 – These figures have not yet been determined.

C. Back to School Night for payment of fees – There was no consensus as to whether a June or an August event might be preferable. A committee consisting of Randy Allori, Tracy Maney, Terry Ozima, and Tinki Robinson will come up with a plan regarding this issue. Their plan will be presented for consideration at next month’s meeting.

D. Meeting of IL Advocates for Educational Choice – Susan Viselli represented St. Edmund School at this meeting at Walther Lutheran High School on February 23. Neither Senator Harmon nor Representative Graham were able to attend. However, a representative from Senator Harmon’s office did come to the meeting to convey messages back to Senator Harmon. Our thanks for block grants for special education and for health and safety were conveyed. At this meeting it was recommended that schools invite these legislators into their buildings, to perhaps teach a class on government or to view exhibits in a history fair. It was also suggested that schools send periodic

updates to these legislators. The next meeting of this group will take place in the fall.

VII. Reports

A. Chairperson – Susan Viselli reported that our full-page ad has been placed in the ad booklet for the Elegant Evening Fundraiser. We also agreed to purchase the past ten years of Caldecott Medal-winning children's books to donate to the silent auction. Hard cover copies of these books (1998 – 2007 winners) have been purchased, for a total amount of \$116. Each board member is contributing approximately \$30 to cover the cost of the \$200 ad along with the books.

B. Pastor – Fr. McGivern reminded everyone about the Triduum services in the parish. He also noted that on May 10 there will be a Mass for Life and on May 17 a Parish Service Day.

C. Principal – Ms. Lynch provided an update on tuition in arrears. The new PreK teacher position is being advertised through the archdiocese as well as to local colleges with teacher career pages. We will receive \$2700 through the IL textbook loan program. Spring pictures will be taken on March 13. The first edition of the student newspaper came out yesterday. Board members noted that they were impressed with the newspaper. Joel Chrispin in First Grade is the winner of a savings bond for his first place poster in the contest sponsored by Dominican University's Center for Economics Education.

D. Committee Chairs

1. Building, Operations and Safety – No report.
2. Finance – No report.
3. Fundraising – No report.
4. Marketing and Recruitment – No report.
5. Technology – No report.
6. Ad hoc committee reports – Welcoming Committee – No report.

VIII. Other comments – The next meeting will take place on Tuesday April 1.

IX. Closing prayer – Randy Allori

X. Adjournment – 9:17pm