

Summary of OLW School Advisory Board Meeting, 2/16/10 7:30PM

Correspondence:

The SAB received a pamphlet relating to spiritual stewardship during Lent entitled "Prayer, Sacrifice and Mercy" that the OLW Stewardship Committee was distributing, and which invited the SAB to hang a leaf tag on the Stewardship Tree in the Church. The SAB also was advised of the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament followed by an evening prayer service that was scheduled for Wednesday, February 24, 2010 in the Church.

Financial Report:

An income statement was distributed to the Board which showed the fiscal YTD results through January 31, 2010. The Board was advised that the fiscal YTD results are \$56,000 worse than budget, and that the tuition accounts are expected to remain unfavorable for the fiscal year due to lower student headcount and the possibility of uncollected tuition. Numerous meetings have been held to develop and implement an action plan for dealing with families who are delinquent, and that families who are behind in their tuition payments are being contacted.

Pastor Report:

Seminarian Hernan Cuevas will be joining OLW on February 26, 2010. The Kairos retreat was held this past weekend for our youth ministry group at Cabrini Retreat Center in Des Plaines. Lent begins February 17th and OLW has planned many activities and events, including the Parish Mission with Father Bob Lombardo on March 15, 16, 17, 2010 from 7:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Principal's Report:

Catholic Schools Week. Catholic Schools Week was a great success and Mr. Wood thanked the FSA and teachers on the Catholic Schools Week Committee for their hard work. A few new families registered in the upper grades.

Bullying. Jim Jelinske spoke to the students on February 4, 2010 concerning bullying, and some classes in the middle school subsequently held their own sessions to discuss bullying which were very positive. On February 12, 2010, the middle school students met in the gym for a presentation by our school counselor Stef Standefer, and the students were divided into small groups to discuss bullying and creating a healthy environment at OLW.

Middle School Information Night. The first Middle School Information night was held on February 11, 2010, and that approximately 25 families attended. Teachers shared their curriculums and presentations were made by past students. The Information Night was very well organized and received by the families.

Kindergarten Information Night. The Kindergarten Information Night is scheduled for February 18, 2010. The teachers will present their curriculum and the highlights of kindergarten. Parents have been invited to speak on their experiences.

Recycling. OLW plans to begin recycling additional materials through OLW's current waste contractor.

Committee Reports:

Finance. The SAB unanimously approved the Finance Committee's recommendation that OLW adopt a new tuition policy for next year that would include multiple exclusion dates to ensure tuition payments are on schedule. Notices to families would be given in advance of these exclusion dates. The new policy would contain a provision that if there is a hardship, OLW would be compassionate and help those families in need. Families would be required to speak with an appointed person at OLW to apply for scholarship and discuss an alternative payment plan in advance of the exclusion date. If tuition payments are not up to date and families have not contacted the appointed person at OLW in advance of the exclusion date to apply for scholarship and discuss an alternative payment plan, students would not be allowed to attend school until either the payments are current or they made alternative payment arrangements with the school. The new policy is focused on improving the communication with those families experiencing hardship in a way that would support both the families and the school. The SAB's recommendation will now be considered by Father Ed and Mr. Wood.

Public Relations. The Committee has been working on developing an after school enrichment program which would hopefully be implemented next year. Other schools have offered such programs which are very successful.

Survey. The response rate to the survey was very good, and that 252 survey respondents out of 383 families (66% response rate) completed the survey. A full report relating to the annual survey was presented during the closed session of the meeting.

Elections. The School Advisory Board elections are scheduled for April 17 and 18, 2010. Three seats need to be filled as Katie Cox, Anne Firestone and Jeff Scardami will be completing their three year term in May 2010. Any questions should be directed to Jeff Scardami, Chair of Election Committee or Tom Aichele, SAB Chair.

Technology. The design of the new website is underway.

Legislative Update. Updates on relevant legislation affecting OLW and the parish from the Catholic Conference of Illinois should be forthcoming.

Old Business:

Virtus Training. SAB members were asked to complete various forms to ensure that all members have satisfied the requirements relating to background checks. Most of the members had previously completed the requirements and this will ensure full compliance.

Catholics Coming Home Campaign . Table Hosts. The SAB will be the hosts for Catholics Coming Home welcoming table prior to and after the masses on March 13 and 14, 2010.

New Business:

Family School Association. The Board was updated on FSA's fundraising activities, including the Dinner Clubs, Progressive Party, Trivia Night, Craft Fair and Book Fair.

Open Forum. OLW intends to host an Open Forum in April 2010, which will likely focus on a few significant topics of interest to OLW families. More information will be provided in the future.

Closed Session:

The Board met in closed session to discuss the annual survey results and school finances.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 PM. We closed with a prayer lead by Father Ed.

The next School Advisory Board meeting will take place on Monday, March 8, 2010 at 7:30 PM in the Neumann Room in the Parish Center. All are welcome to attend.

From the School Manual which is posted on the school website: Re: Agenda Items

• • • +The Board invites and appreciates your interest. The Constitution states that any parents or member of the parish may formally petition the Board with a request to consider recommendations, proposals or other matters relating to the operation of the educational facilities of the parish. Such petitions must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Board at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which formal consideration is proposed. This procedure allows parishioners to discuss with the Board any matter requiring formal consideration. Ordinarily, policies and other proposals introduced at a Board meeting are discussed and voted upon at subsequent meetings.+

Respectfully submitted by Pat Sexton, Co-secretary