

**SAINT PATRICK SCHOOL
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
JANUARY 5, 2015**

Present: Arthur Swanson, Karl Liwo, (Chair), Mary Driscoll, Maureen Soley, Betty Costa, Michelle Ross-Nuzzo, Susanne Bromadner, Ted Dalton, Katie Conroy, Rosanne Klovee

Budget: A Motion to approve the budget recommendations presented by Susanne Bromander was brought by Mary Driscoll, seconded by Maureen Solely and unanimously approved by the Board.

A motion to start the open meeting was brought by Rosanne Klovee and seconded by Michelle Nuzzo.

Service Program

The update on the service program was presented by Renee Keegan. She sent an email to all parents requesting feedback on the program and received no responses. The next step is for the chair persons of trivia night, the Christmas Fair, etc. to be contacted to request that they let her know if they suggest any changes to the events. She will wait for feedback and then will meet with Fr. Mario and Mr. Swanson.

Mother's Club

The update on the Mother's Club was presented by Katie Conroy. She met with Fr. Mario and Mr. Swanson in November. The goal is to raise \$87,000 from cookie sales, Christmas Fair, trivia night, cash calendars, and the wreath and tree sales. The spring fundraiser will be a combined comedy and auction night at the Montvale Plaza. Since no one signed up to chair the event, Mother's Club is running it. The St. Patrick's breakfast will be next weekend with Irish bread, scones and other treats.

PTO

The PTO update was presented by Michelle Nuzzo. The collections for Christmas presents for the faculty went well. PTO is preparing for Catholic Schools Week including the Open House, art show, ice cream social, crazy hat day, and Simon Says at lunch. The theme this year is participating in your community.

1000 Club

There are many available numbers. There are changes in progress. Open numbers and winning numbers are now published in the Church bulletin. Envelopes are no longer being mailed.

Principal's Report

Mr. Swanson reported the following:

- 50 Ipads were donated to the 7th graders in honor of Aidan Skinner. The Ipads are engraved and were shown to the board.
- The school now has over 150 Ipads
- Chrome books are the next step for use in middle school; it is easier to do research on chrome books than on Ipads
- Laptops have been purchased to start the Robotics program soon; sign up with be on a first come first serve basis; there will be beginners and advanced groups; the program runs for 10 weeks
- A projector is being purchased
- The school is a member of the Middlesex County Youth Alliance League which works to protect children
- The Christmas pageant was a wonderful event; the 6th, 7th and 8th graders did not participate; Mr. Swanson may look to involve them in some way next year
- Intro to Spanish for 5th graders is being taught once per week; advanced is also being taught once per week; there is a tutorial being offered also for those who are struggling
- Field trips are determined by teachers and are consistent with what is being studied in class
- The cost of buses alone for field trips is quite high with a minimum price of \$400
- Overnight field trips, including Nature's Classroom and the trip to Washington, D.C., will not occur; for professional and personal liability reasons the Catholic Schools Office advises against overnight field trips
- The 8th graders will still do something and Mr. Swanson will work on this
- A 3-day math program workshop is being held for teachers in Pre-K to grade 6
- The Keeping Children Safe Program will be for grades 4 – 8
- The board discussed marketing for the school. The questions to think about are "What is unique about our school"? "Why should people come here"?

Bylaws

The By-Laws for the Advisory Board of St. Patrick School were revised as of January 5, 2015. Fr. Mario's name needs to be inserted in Article 3. A motion to accept the board's membership as amended was brought by Maureen Soley and seconded by Ted Dalton and unanimously approved by the Board.

Self-Evaluation of the Board

The board needs to develop a self-evaluation protocol.

The next meeting of the Board is April 27, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

A motion to adjourn was brought at 8:35 p.m. by Maureen Soley and seconded by Michelle Nuzzo.