

May 7, 2008
Minutes from the
St. Thomas More Student Advisory Council Meeting

In attendance: Msgr. Paul, Mr. John Bonnie, Terry Collis, Marie Trujillo, Ansley Murphy, Anne Lewis, Peg Girard, Kim Lucas and Cate Miller. Special guest attendee was Superintendent Diane Starkovich.

The meeting began with an approval of the minutes from the March 12th meeting.

Ansley Murphy reported that the Annual Fund was progressing well. There was a successful May Day reminder event that was new and well accepted (carnations and a note were given out in morning carpool).

Marie Trujillo talked about the beautiful First Communion Day with 70 students and their families attending. A July Vacation Bible School is being planned. She hopes for more events that will bring family participation between parish and school families. Approximately 77 people attended the *Smart Discipline* program held recently.

Principal Collis reported on projected enrollment for next school year. The school budgets for 450 and we are looking at 460-470. The PTO proposed a new volunteer hour program that would require 17 hours to be logged into a book that would be housed in the front office. It would basically be on an honor roll system but would credit much more than work days. Room Parties, Auction and fundraising committees, gardening, etc. will all be accepted volunteer jobs. The hours are based on a \$12.00/hr. labor rate. Ansley will look into how other schools handle the charging for hours not completed. The idea seemed to be well received at the last PTO meeting of this year.

Some parents have been asking about the number of school days and how they are calculated. SACS requires 175, the Archdiocese requires 180. The conference days count as a school day because the students attend with their parents. STM is one of the schools who offer evening conferences for the convenience of parents. Next school year the wording on the calendar will be sure to note when there is no aftercare on these conference days.

Msgr. Paul reported on the construction project for the church and school. If all goes as expected, construction will begin as soon as school is out. Teachers report back on August 11th, Occupancy approval is slated for August 10th.

Last item on the agenda was the after Care program. Some concerns were brought up at the last meeting and a few members looked into the situation. All is reported to be going better than ever. New employees have fit in and staffing problems are no longer an issue.

Ms. Starkovich asked for support, along with the Archbishop on a proposed tax credit Bill 1133. This bill will target middle income parents who are "being squeezed." More info will be sent to the parents explaining and asking for support.

Peg Girard had a sign made and posted at the parking lot entrance. It serves as a reminder that there are “children breathing here...please turn off ignition.” Everyone likes the sign and hopes people will respond by turning off engines during afternoon carpool.

Terry Collis reported that the lunch program has been well received, with only a few complaints. The company adheres to government health standards and serves a number of other schools as well. A small problem with staffing there as well, is resolved. She also reported that the auction made \$39,000, more than needed to make the Notre Dame building payment. Terry gave token of appreciation gifts to Heather Kloer, John Bonnie, Ansley Murphy, Peg Girard and Cate Miller. Their terms on the council are up. She announced a new slate of officers for next year: Kim Woodland, Matt Beyer, Angie Petroni, Edie Fahey and returning, Kim Lucas. No STM teachers will be on the School Advisory Council. The new bylaws state that it would be a conflict of interest.

Superintendent Starkovich talked about her upcoming visit on Monday. She will be teaching Heather Thompsons second grade class. Ms. Thompson “won” her in a raffle at the last Catholic Educators gathering.

Anne Lewis commented on the wonderful job that Terry Collis has done this year as principal. All in attendance agreed whole-heartedly!

Motion to adjourn. Seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Cate Miller