



**St Louis School Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Jan 29, 2015 6:30 PM Rectory Dining Room**

Attendance Fran Barr, Sarah Blake, Jim D'Anza, Carolyn Gerstner, Mike Moore, Fr. Robert Ring, Dawn Schnell

This was an emergency meeting called to review the issues regarding the future of 6th grade at St. Louis and recommend a course of action to Fr. Bob.

The facts were reviewed by the board members as well as written input from board members who were unable to make the emergency meeting as well as a summary provided by Fr. Bob before the meeting. The points of the discussion follow:

- For the coming school year, with the addition of 6th grade at Siena Catholic Academy, there are more class seats offered than there are students to fill them. Bishop Matano expressed a desire that 6th grade be moved to the Jr. High but did not insist that that be done in the 2015-2016 year.
- The board had previously recommended and Fr. Bob agreed that there could be a 6th grade at St. Louis next year if there were 20 students enrolled at the close of next year's open enrollment period. It was believed that that number was the minimum that would allow a quality program to be presented with a revenue / cost trade off that would not damage the school. The enrollment stands at 14 at the deadline date.
- There was general consensus that timing for dealing with this decision with the announcement in November was not the best but it is what we must deal with.
- There are some families that are not prepared for the tuition step in going from the St. Louis tuition to that charged by McQuaid and OLM. Additionally, there is a perception that Siena Catholic Academy is not yet prepared to take on the 6th grade. This leads to the belief by some that we are letting those families down by not having 6th grade.
- Siena Catholic Academy is committed to providing a quality 6th grade next year and many families are satisfied with the offerings that are presented.
- Fran Barr, Fr. Bob, and the board are committed to working with Siena to do what we can to ensure that they are able to have a quality program, communicate that message

to St. Louis families, and do what we can to help families deal with the loss of 6th grade if that is the decision that is made.

- Delay and indecision about what to do about 6th grade hurts the credibility of the school, stalls the planning process for alternatives, and makes it hard for teachers and parents to make future plans. The decision about what to do should not be delayed.

Fr. Bob plans to communicate his decision tomorrow, Friday January 30.

Meeting adjourned 8:00 pm

Upcoming Meeting - Feb 3, 2015

Submitted by Mike Moore – Secretary