



**Draft St Louis School Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Nov 4, 2014 7:00 PM Art Room**

Attendance Catherine Anania, Fran Barr, Sarah Blake, Angel Boev, Chris Crowley, Susan Conlogue, Jim D'Anza, Carolyn Gerstner, Mike Moore, Fr. Robert Ring, Dawn Schnell

Opening prayer offered by Fr. Ring

Please note that the school advisory board meeting scheduled for Oct. 7, 2014 was canceled. Most of the Nov. 4 meeting was a discussion about the announcement that Siena is opening a 6th Grade in 2015. The Catholic Courier E-News article about this is sent with the minutes.

Pastor and Principal's Report – Fr. Bob Ring and Fran Barr

- Fr. Bob serves on the diocesan school board and provided background on the events leading up to the announcement that Siena is adding 6th grade to its middle school program. In DOR the Catholic High Schools are not part of the diocese school system. Mercy, & McQuaid currently have 6th grade programs and Bishop Kearney is adding 6th grade. Siena risked being left behind with students entering 7th grade where the model in the area has middle school students entering in 6th grade. Also, are students best served when they leave one of the Catholic grade schools after 6th grade and have to fit in at Mercy, McQuaid, or public high school?
- The DOR school board dealt with two questions.
 1. Should Siena add 6th grade?
 2. Should the DOR grade schools be allowed to continue to offer 6th grade?The DOR school board was asked to give a recommendation to Bishop Matano and the pastors and principals were ask to give input regarding these questions. Recommendations from pastors and principals were strongly for retaining 6th grade in the primary schools and even hoped that 7 and 8th grade would come back. The

decision was quick and Siena will add the 6th grade but the primary schools will be free to decide for themselves whether to offer 6th grade.

- Other considerations were as follows:
 - The number of 6th graders has declined in the past years by 23%
 - There are many options for 6th grade, primary schools, public schools, Mercy, McQuaid, Bishop Kearney
 - Parents tend to decide in 5th grade where to send their children for middle school.
 - Parents of urban schools have different concerns than suburban parents when deciding where their children attend school.
 - Urban Catholic schools have different levels of financial support and control from DOR than St. Louis.

Other Discussions

- Pittsford Schools are not offering full day Kindergarten next year.
- Families were interviewed last year who were in early pre-K and did not continue at St. Louis. None was dissatisfied, two families had financial issues, and 7-8 were never planning to stay.
- Regarding changing the parent newsletter from paper to electronic delivery – One parent with expertise in the area had privacy concerns about newsletter details being presented on the website. We need to ensure that best practices are followed and will consider adding a section of the website where login credentials are required.
- The legacy sidewalk will be added around the Veterans Day timeframe.

Closing prayer offered by Fr. Ring

Meeting adjourned 8:40 pm

Upcoming Meeting

- Dec 2, 2014

Mike Moore – Secretary

Attachment 1

School Advisory Board Meeting Schedule 2014 - 2105

All Meetings to take place at 7:00pm in the Art room within Reddington Hall

August 26
September 9
October 7
November 4
December 2
January 6
February 3
March 3
April 7
May 5
June 2

There are also a number of other dates I wanted to make sure you were aware of:
Thursday August 28th 12:30pm - there is a Welcome Back to School teacher luncheon - Fran and Laurie are doing the planning but could use some help serving; if you are available and in the area stop by to introduce yourself and lend a hand!
Tuesday September 2nd 9:30 - 10:30am - Meet and Greet, supply drop off in the classroom; gathering on playground
Monday, September 8th 9:10am - Opening Mass
Thursday, September 11th 6:30 - Parent Information night
Wednesday, September 24th 5:15pm - School Picnic at Eyer Park

Mission Statement

St. Louis Catholic School is a faith and values centered learning community for students in preschool through Grade 6. We are dedicated to providing academic excellence and preparing students to become lifelong learners and Christian stewards. In partnership with families and the greater community, St. Louis Catholic School strives to provide students with experiences that encourage individuality and the development of mind, body and spirit. We promote critical thinking, teamwork, respect and ownership through compelling and challenging programs that build on these fundamentals.

Vision Statement

St. Louis Catholic School serves as a vital ministry of the St. Louis Parish Community. Saint Louis Catholic School works actively to build a sense of rapport and to encourage support from all local parishes and the greater community for the school's future needs.

Saint Louis Catholic School will continue to be a school of excellence with a strong focus on its Catholic identity and academic distinction. A dedicated and caring faculty and staff is the hallmark of its academic excellence. We recognize that effective teaching and learning rests upon the recognition of the unique talents and learning style of each individual.

We will continue to strengthen our spiritually-centered community, living the Catholic faith as expressed through worship and service. Through stewardship education, social justice teaching, creative and expressive arts, academic competitions, leadership training, technology integration, and community service projects, our commitment is to the growth and development of the whole person. The administration and staff will continually analyze and evaluate the programming and make curricular decisions based on up-to-date educational best practices.

Saint Louis Catholic School will maintain a campus environment which ensures the best use of all its facilities. With our first phase of building updates complete, we will endeavor to create a modern facility in order to offer the best educational experience for its students.

Saint Louis Catholic School will encourage support of the alumni who value the school's strong commitment to academic excellence and spiritual formation.

Attachment 3

School Advisory Board Goals 2014 – 2105 – DRAFT!!!

Goal	Tactics	Measure
Increase Retention	Marketing – External	Retention rate of 95% year over year
	Marketing - Internal	
Utilize all Facilities	Young K program investigation	Plan developed for immediate use AND 3-5 years
	Review Building options	
Tuition Stabilization increase the involvement of alumni		