



**St Louis School Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
Feb 3, 2015 7:00 PM Parish Meeting Hall**

**Attendance** Catherine Anania, Fran Barr, Sarah Blake, Jim D'Anza, Carolyn Gerstner, Seana Mancini, Mike Moore, Mark Paris, Fr. Robert Ring, Dawn Schnell

Opening prayer offered by Fr. Bob

**Principal's Report – Fran Barr**

- Susan Conlogue has been excused as the teacher representative to the board as she is a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher.
- Registration numbers were presented for next school year compared to this school year. The presentation shows that the numbers for next year are not down by much more than would be indicated from the loss of 6<sup>th</sup> grade. There were people waiting to register on opening day and more people have registered early than in years past.
- The training will be conducted with the teachers on identifying sexual abuse among children.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Departure and Pre-K Expansion Planning – Fran Barr, Dawn Schnell**

The balance of the meeting included break out sessions. The PTO had been invited to come but due to timing of the invitation only the board members were at the meeting. Three breakout topics were planned but one was tabled to a future date.

- 1) We want to do what we can to ensure the success of the DOR Catholic school model; including first what we can do honor the 5th class that will now be exiting; secondarily what we can do to assist Siena for success with registration and upcoming school year?
- 2) What would be the ideal scenario for the 2015/2016 school year; is it an additional PreK classroom? A Young K classroom introduction to the SLS model?; where would it fit best?
- 3) Discuss the updates that are necessary for the school website to display the best picture for incoming families and for the retention of current families. This topic was tabled for discussion at a later date. A proposed site-map was presented; the current website

continue to describe St. Louis as K-6 as long as the 6<sup>th</sup> graders are here this year with planning to continue offline with the change to Pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **Summary of Breakout Session Results – All**

### Topic 1 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade departure planning

- Breakout sessions discussed what could be done to provide a meaningful celebration for the departing 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders already have a full schedule but the thought was that some of the following could be incorporated at 5<sup>th</sup> grade to add meaning to their departure:
  - Allow safety opportunities for the 5<sup>th</sup> graders
  - Serve as Student Ambassadors with 6<sup>th</sup> grade; possibly add an open house in spring
  - Hold a separate Godspeed
  - Host a Graduation breakfast
  - Graduation retreat at St. Bernard's or Camp Stella Maris
  - Seek help of the parents in this effort
  - Discuss legacy opportunity
- Activities that 5<sup>th</sup> graders already have planned or completed are as follows:
  - Saints Day
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Musical
  - Rock the Art
  - Stations of the Cross
  - Americas Fair
  - Dare Graduation
- There may be ways that we can partner with Siena Catholic Academy to make it more attractive to 5<sup>th</sup> grade families. Marty Kilbridge is the Siena principal. We should work with him to describe the music and arts programs that St Louis has. Other things we should pursue are the following.
  - 1) Provide an opportunity to describe the developing Siena program to those families that have not committed to another 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the short term. Include refreshments. This program could be repeated in the longer term and open it up to all families.
  - 2) Provide testimony from parents with Jr. High students at Siena about their satisfaction with that program

### Topic 2 – School Configuration Changes to Repurpose Space for Pre-K

- Two school maps are attached which show possible configurations. There is an additional classroom that needs to be filled and the best choice will be known as registration is completed. There are waiting lists forming in some areas and this more information will be available as the pre-k 3 class develops

Closing prayer offered by Fr. Bob  
Meeting adjourned 9:40 pm  
Upcoming Meeting - Mar 3, 2015  
Submitted by Mike Moore – Secretary