



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

**Attendance** Catherine Anania, Fran Barr, Sarah Blake, Kathy Conezio, Susan Conlogue, Chris Crowley, Mike Moore, Mark Paris, Fr. Robert Ring, Dawn Schnell

(The March meeting was not held due to inclement weather)

Opening prayer offered by Fr. Bob

**Principal's Report** – Fran Barr

- Preparation for tonight's meeting included watching a video about a Colorado public school which has implemented a STEM inspired curriculum. The URL for the video is [youtube.com/watch?v=gVsZyNL1njs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVsZyNL1njs)
- Kathy Conezio a St Louis pre-K teacher led a discussion about what a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) curriculum is. There is more information in the advisory board attachment from Fran Barr.
- The present St. Louis preschool program is largely based on Math and Science. Children are observing the world around them taking in properties of materials, shapes. STEM programs are successful because reading about things is not as effective as doing and experiencing them.
- Common Core Standards look for integration of subject matter. The S.T.E.M. program will do this easily as science learning will spread across the units of in depth exploration and usage of ELA, Math, and Technology. A S.T.E.M based program would set St. Louis School apart from nearby schools.
- Examples of student work include an erosion study using cookies and milk or one based on the 3 Billy Goats Gruff which was an example of designing and building bridges and boats which included engineering design, test, evaluation and communication. Children are taught to question in this process and the outcome has been to increase vocabulary skills.
- To say we are a STEM school is to state that we are different.

- Mark Paris asked how we can make this happen? St. Louis is in the process of setting up a science lab and growing this over the years. Investment will be needed to bring the teachers along with this idea and to procure equipment. Not all of the equipment is expensive – rain gutters presented as an example. Examples of equipment needed were tablets and microscopes. Thinking of resources, perhaps corporate sponsors or gifts from closing Catholic schools could be tapped?
- Chris suggested that we build a “wish list” of items needed for the lab and place it on the website. Saints Place might be another source of items. Some items could be constructed rather than bought. Mrs. Conezio cited the need for an outdoor wash stand and suggested this as a possible Eagle Scout project.
- As a STEM school, St. Louis Students would be asked to do engineering projects, document them, and share them with others.
- Traditional elementary teacher education has been more heavily weighted to social studies and less to science but more “out of the box” thinking will help the students learn.
- Father Bob expressed the view that this type of program would not be expected from a Catholic School.

### **PTO Update – Fran Barr**

- Discussion about walkathon Trek for Tech fundraiser. More money will be needed for tech upgrades and repairs. We want to make our needs known because there are parishioners that are in the tech and science businesses who might have a special interest in helping out.
- For the coming year we want to use more volunteer help in place of relying on Dixon Schwabl. We have parents skilled and interested in helping with the marketing plans.
- Possible Volunteer photographers are Gary Eisenhart, Keith Bullis, Larry Mcknight, and Keegan Jacobs mother.

### **Tech Update – Mark Paris / Mike Moore**

- Website prototype is complete for a mechanism to restrict access to a portion of the website if we decide that we need to. Node permissions module allows the creation of a parent role or parent user where log in is required to access pages on the site.
- For restructuring of the parent pages, the list of items has grown to the point where the page is too busy. Design a mechanism where items not currently needed are moved to an archive area.
- Looking for an opportunity to test web forms
- Need to look into our ability to renew slspittsford.org

## **External Marketing Update – Catherine Anania**

- New marketing pieces will be needed for next year to define the school as pre-k-5. Volunteers include Sarah Blake, Daniela Moldoch, and Melissa Teresi

Chris Crowley discussed the idea of adding the study of health and fitness to the science program. This is an area of interest to parents. He will look into our use of the field behind the Spiegel Center.

Closing prayer offered by Fr. Bob

Meeting adjourned 8:50 pm

Upcoming Meeting - May 6, 2015 (change in date, to be held in Manse library)

Submitted by Mike Moore – Secretary