

St. Stephen Martyr School Advisory Committee Meeting
August Meeting, September 4, 2008

Member	Present?	Member	Present?	Member	Present?
Susan Abel	Y	Ami Hart	Y	Jennifer McCauley	Y
Karen Bayens	Y	Noel Jolly	Y	Laura Stevens	Y
Margaret Bowen	Y	Pat Kehoe	Y	Barbara Stuecker	Y
Kathleen Burke	Y	Laura Kelty	Y	Joe Wright	Y

The minutes for the August meeting were approved with one correction.

New Business

- Father Randy attended the meeting and discussed the following topics:
 - He thanked the SAC members for devoting their time, effort and energy to fulfill SAC's primary mission of providing good counsel to the faculty and staff.
 - He does not regularly attend SAC because of his confidence in SAC and Margaret Bowen as primary caretaker of the school, but he cares about our needs and concerns.
 - The school is one of his top priorities and he always keeps the best interests of the school in mind when making decisions, but he has to balance those needs with the parish's other needs.
 - He is very impressed with the number of school families who attend mass.
 - He is always looking to ease the financial burden on parish families. The parish provides \$80,000 in tuition assistance divided among approximately 43 school families. Families receiving tuition assistance must first apply to the archdiocese's catholic education (CEF) fund and the school choice foundation for assistance. They must also participate in stewardship and attend mass.
 - The CEF provides approximately \$120,000 to SSM students for tuition assistance and the school choice foundation provides another \$40,000 to \$50,000. Students receiving school choice funds have to attend special meetings and their progress in school is tracked.
 - According to the archdiocese, a healthy school should not receive more than a 15 to 20 percent subsidy from their parish. SSM counts the tuition assistance as part of the subsidy and our subsidy is under 15%. A healthy school may also generate 15 to 20 percent of their budget from other fundraising efforts, so he and Margaret Bowen want to look at setting up a trust for tuition assistance.
 - Only the Cathedral pays SSM back for the difference between parishioner and non-parishioner rate tuition for their students who attend SSM. If non-SSM parishioner students need financial aid they are referred back to their home parish for assistance.
 - Our parish goal for the next archdiocese capital campaign is \$914,000 of which we will receive 50% back. Collection starts in January 2010.
 - He is willing to allow all of the Kroger card money to go to the school rather than splitting it between the school and the parish. Is also considering giving students some sort of credit for selling their picnic chances. Laura Kelty suggested allowing funds raised by Scrips to go toward a student's book bill.
 - Father Randy asked SAC members to encourage parents with children at SSM who are members of other parishes to support SSM fundraisers since these fundraisers supply a portion of the school's budget.
 - There is approximately \$68,000 in the capital projects/emergency fund account that has been generated from continued building fund contributions.
 - He believes that non-SSM parishioners/students who participate in athletics are required to participate in stewardship as well as attending CRE.
- **Book Bill**
 - After discussion with Father Randy it was proposed that tuition remain on a 10 month schedule, but that the book bill be assessed and paid in July via automatic withdrawal.

Principal's Report

- She passed out a sample exit survey for families that leave SSM. Please bring feedback to the next meeting
- Also passed out a sample survey to give to recent SSM alumni when they return to SSM to visit.

Committee Reports

- **Formation Update – Noel Jolly**

SAC Meeting Minutes

September 4, 2008

Page 2 of 2

- CRE begins 9/10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Marteen Room. St. Agnes and St. Brigid have joined our program.
- RCIA begins 9/9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Weiker Room.
- First Reconciliation meeting is 9/18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Weiker Room.

New Business

- Due to time constraints tabled until the next meeting.

The next meeting will be Thursday, October 2, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library.