

**IHMCS ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES for the meeting of**  
**December 13, 2007**  
**6:00-7:30 p.m.**

Attendees: Cheri Gardner, Jane Victorey, Ted Ceglia, Wendy Composto, Jim Cron, Leslie Lohan, Ann Olson

After opening prayer, Ted submitted the minutes of the Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> meeting for approval. Minutes were approved.

Cheri then gave the Principal's report and stated current enrollment stands at 316 with 32 additional in preschool. The following other updates were given:

- Most Holy Trinity School in St. Louis Park is closing due to low enrollment. Cheri represented IHM at an Open House for parents to seek other alternatives for next year.
- Kare 11's "Stump the Weather Guy" was a huge success for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes that were able to participate, and our school made the news.
- The "Thank You" celebration for Father Pat after the school mass (Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>) was well received by all. The kids really did a great job and he will truly be missed!
- Looking ahead we have: Weekly Advent Prayer Services; Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Catholic School quiz bowl; Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> – the Christmas Concerts; and plenty of basketball.

Lastly, the MNSAA (the body that performs the accreditation of the School) school improvement plan needs some updates this year, primarily the development of a long range development plan for the fiscal health of IHMCS. We agreed to discuss this further at the January meeting and possibly set up a smaller group to work on it.

Jane discussed the financial results and stated that we are off by 15 students compared to the approved budget last year. This has had a negative impact on tuition revenue, which has been mostly offset by prudent expense management. Only \$1,800 is past due in tuition payments and it is anticipated that these will be made current. Lastly, Pre-K payments are now required to be made by electronic transfer, thus improving collections this year.

Wendy gave a marketing overview which included: Only 3 schools will be attending the Pax Christi Fair this year, which may improve our visibility there; the Committee has done research on joining local area Chamber of Commerce groups.; and an initiative is to get some dedicated PR people to write articles for local newspapers as a way to garner some free publicity. Normal mailings and tour requests are proceeding as planned.

Jim Cron shared some research he did regarding other school's fund raising policies and activities. Some ideas were discussed and it was noted that we'll need to coordinate with the Parish Council on future funding needs.

Leslie provided the Home & School update, which included: The staff Christmas Party (Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>) is in full swing and the teachers & staff are excited; preliminary results of the Grand Celebration look great, especially with both Benilde's and Holy Family's events on the same night, with a prediction of reaching or beating our budget. Final results are due early in the year due to last minute expenses; couple things coming up are Bingo Bonanza and Catholic Schools week, both occurring in January; and both Chess Club and the new LEGO's class are off to a great start.

After the closing prayer, the meeting was adjourned.