



## **IHMCS Advisory Council Meeting Minutes April 12, 2005**

Attending: Deann Speltz, Ken Horst, Cheri Gardner, John Goodrich, Jane Victorey, Terri Kemmerer, Tim Benz

Tim began the meeting with prayer.

Minutes from the March 12, 2005 meeting were approved with corrections. Tim will forward to Lori Foley to post on the website.

**Principal's Report:** As of 4/12/05, we have 300 students registered for 2005-06 school year. We are ahead of last year's pace and Cheri feels this number is very solid. Seven of the incoming Kindergarten students are from outside our pre-school. Retention rates from grade to grade are very solid (95 %+).

The preschool has 31 registered thus far.

The students performed Living Stations of the Cross on Holy Thursday. First Eucharist will be taking place during the next three weekends.

The Star Tribune published the Math and Reading test scores from schools across the Twin Cities area. One-hundred percent of IHM students passed the reading portion and 96% passed the math portion. This is fabulous and we should use this as a positive tool for our recruiting efforts.

Cheri attended the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) conference in Philadelphia. Some points of interest were:

- Word of Mouth marketing seems to have the greatest effect on enrollment
- Build long-term relationships with faculty and students – great asset to have faculty who are close to the students
- Bullying – origin of this issue seems to stem from modeling at-home behavior

**Finance:** The financial status of the school remains very strong. The positive outcome of the financial pictures is due on part to cost containment and increased fundraising revenue.

The budget development is still in process. The final budget must be approved by the Parish Council.

A primary goal for this year was setting up new accounting system coordinating with the parish database. This has been met.

**Development:** All Advisory Council members received an email with an update on the campaign. Campaign results were also published in the parish bulletin, school website, Weekender and included in the IHMCS newsletter.

Sue Sullivan is coordinating the parish wide celebration with Archbishop Flynn on April 27. The event will start at 11:00 a.m. with Mass, followed by a luncheon and short program.

**PR/Marketing:** The Marketing committee met today. They are still hopeful that the Pre-K, K and Gr. 1 enrollment numbers will continue to rise.

Two areas of recruitment are 1) parish families with children who do not attend IHMCS (being respectful of their decision) and 2) One potential area recruitment could be parish families who have younger children approaching school age (ages 1-5). Many of these children could be in the Sunday religious Education program.

**Strategic/LR Planning:** No report

**Policy:** Terri reports that the new policies approved during this year will be in place for the beginning of the 2005-06 school year.

The entire Council did an exercise about the proposed Code of Conduct. Each person wrote down short descriptors of what the key messages of a Code of Conduct should be. The areas of focus were purpose, key messages and parameters.

The Council felt the Code should be brief in nature, with very clear messages for all to understand. This exercise will now be taken back to the policy Committee for further development in the next draft of the document.

The Evaluation/Assessment Toll will be distributed to the entire Council. Each Chair should evaluate their area of responsibility, as well as evaluation of the entire Council. The evaluation form of the SAC should be sent to Tim by May 5. He will assemble the comments and bring the finished product of the Council at the May meeting. Each chair should be prepared to report on their committee at the on May 11 meeting.

**Home and School:** The Carnival was held April 9 and expected profit is approximately \$1500-1750.

Target Take Charge for Education program has generated more than \$1700 for IHMCS this year. The program allows consumers with Target Card (2%) or Target Visa Card (1%) to allocate a percent of their total purchase to a school.

May 6 is the Spring 6-8 grade dance.

The new HSC Chair for 2005-06 will be Leslie Lohan – this will not be finalized until the May meeting.

The LOVE agreement is only available online this year.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, May 11, 2005 @ 6:00 p.m.