



IHMCS Advisory Council Meeting Minutes February 10, 2005

Attending: Fr. Patrick Hipwell, Deann Speltz, Gina Musech, Ken Horst, Brad Cook, Cheri Gardner, John Goodrich, Jane Victorey, Terri Kemmerer, Tim Benz

Fr. Pat began the meeting with prayer.

Minutes from the January 13, 2005 meeting were approved. Tim will forward to Lori Foley to post on the website.

Principal's Report: January was a busy month. Mid-term report cards went home. This seems to help kids get a little more motivated before the end of the trimester.

Catholic Schools week concluded, and there were a lot of activities. Cheri attended the Pax Christi Catholic School Fair. She was the only Principal to attend the fair after every mass. She received many inquiries.

Registration for the 2005-06 school year will begin in March. Cheri said there have been many visits and tours for prospective parents.

Cheri talked with representatives from the MNSSA (Minnesota Non-Public School Accrediting Assoc.) regarding the accreditation process. The recommendations were to take the time to get all details organized then apply for accreditation. We must wait 2 years to apply accreditation. Our site visit will then occur in February, 2007, and hopefully receive our accreditation for the 2007-08 school year.

Finance: Finances continue to look very good. Tuition collection continues to remain ahead of schedule.

Tuition needs to be set for the 2005-06. The Finance Committee made a recommendation to set tuition at \$4150. Active and contributing parishioners would benefit from the parish subsidy of \$1000 resulting in a net tuition of \$3150. This price is very much in line with surrounding schools. The Council accepted the recommendation for the tuition rates for 2005-06 and this will be sent to the Parish Council for final approval.

Budgeting for 2005-06 includes an increase in salary and benefits. We have been able to delay closing on the construction loan because of the higher than expected initial revenue from campaign payments.

Development: Gina reports that \$1,417,403 (94% of goal) has been pledged/donated to the campaign. There have been 266 pledges or gifts to the campaign and 107 of those are from current school families (57% of the parents). This total amount raised does not include the end of campaign matching challenge grant program, or the donated and in-kind contributions of computer, network and phone equipment. The next step will be to discuss proper recognition or a “thank you” event.

PR/Marketing: A second mailer was sent to parish families who do not have kids in IHMCS. There was also a mailing to families in Minnetonka and Eden Prairie who have grade school age children. Three events occurred during the last several weeks. The Jr. High Curriculum Night took place and the feedback was very positive. The Pax Christi School Fair worked out very well. The Open House for Catholic Schools week attracted 11 non-school families. On February 15, there will be a Pre-K, K, and Grade 1 Open House.

John asked if the committee tracks inquiries and what follow-up is done. Ken said the committee has a list of contacts of approximately 40 “hot prospects.” These families have students across all age ranges. The committee divides up these names and one person becomes the point of contact for these prospects.

Strategic/LR Planning: Brad is working on the demographic information of the school and parish families. He is also looking for demographic information from the Hopkins school district on school age children and those under kindergarten age. No information can be obtained from outside our school district. Busing still appears to be the most important issue in terms of costs and benefits for our families. The director of the Eden Prairie Transportation Office has offered to assist in looking at options for our school. Brad will also visit with Sharon Brennan of the Archdiocesan Education and Formation office regarding long-term tuition strategies.

Policy: Terri distributed several new and potential policies. Each policy is reviewed by Jane and Cheri and then by an Archdiocesan attorney before approval and publication. The Council reviewed the concept of Code of Conduct which would apply to all students, parents, volunteers, faculty and staff. If developed, these would help guide actions when dealing with people, or situations in a respectful and Christ-like manner. The committee is also drafting a tool to annually evaluate the work of the committees and the Council. Terri, Deann and Tim will meet tomorrow to work on the nominations process, which begins March 7, 2005.

Home and School: Deann reports that Bingo Bonanza was a great success. Final results are pending, but we are positive we raised more than last year. McDonald’s night for February raised \$248. (We have averaged around \$250/month this year.) The Spring Carnival is set for April 9 at IHM. Volunteers are needed for the day.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 10, 2005 @ 6:00 p.m.