



IHMCS Advisory Council Meeting Minutes September 20, 2005

Attending: Ann Olson, Ken Horst, Ted Ceglia, Leslie Lohan, Cheri Gardner, Jane Victorey, Tim Benz

Excused: Brad Cook and Mark Ebel

Principal's Report: Cheri reports that we began the year with 324 students. There will be some new students enrolling during the first two months of school, including one exchange student. The goal for enrollment was 325 and it appears we will meet the goal. No new hires were needed for this year. There will be a couple of maternity leaves during the year.

During an Archdiocesan Principal's meeting, Cheri learned that enrollment at many schools in the western portion of the metro area had declined. IHMCS was one of only two schools that saw an increase from 2004-05.

The entire staff attended the Virtus training, concerning the charter for the protection of children, which is mandated of all Archdiocesan employees.

A new religion program is being taught in grades K-6 this year. The 7-8 grade programs will begin in 2006-07.

Policy/Evaluation: Ann reported the policies developed during 2004-05 are enacted for this school year. They are included in the Parent Handbook. In addition, the Code of Conduct was distributed to each family and is posted throughout the school.

The focus of this year will be evaluations and developing measurable outcomes for the Council.

Finance: Ted reports financial picture of the school is very positive. With enrollment numbers coming in at goal, that will aid the current year's operational budget. Cheri and the staff continue exercise wise and prudent fiscal management.

Once again, we will encourage people to use automatic withdrawal for tuition and Kids Care payments. This assists in cash-flow projections for the year.

The ten year- financial projections for the school remain very positive, assuming we meet our enrollment projections.

PR/Marketing: Ken reports the committee will have their first meeting in October where assignments and goals will be discussed. There are five events planned for the year. The website continues to be a main source for prospective families' inquiries.

Long-Range/Strategic Planning: Brad Cook was able to secure a better busing arrangement for Eden Prairie families and that has been a great success. Thus far, 48 students are using the service, compared to less than 25 last year. This is a one year option, but we are hopeful this option will remain for the future.

Development: Mark has done some research on development functions at area schools and will do more research on success and correlation with parish responsibilities.

Home and School: Leslie reports HSC had their first meeting of the year. They covered by-laws and objectives for the year. The Open House will be held September 22, and we expect a large turnout. Plans are underway to publish an IHM Cookbook from school and parish families.

The Ice Cream Social was a great success. Grand Celebration plans are well underway – the goal is to raise \$115,000 from the event this year.

Chair's Report: The evaluation from our Advisory Council Orientation was positive. This function will continue year after to year to acquaint new members and re-orient continuing members.

Each member of the Council is required to attend Archdiocesan Educational Board/Council Workshop on September 29 or October 4. Members of elementary educational councils or boards from across the Archdiocese are strongly encouraged to attend.

We still are in need of volunteers for some committees. A few signed up from the LOVE Agreement, but committee Chairs are encouraged to recruit talented members to help out on their committees.

Next meeting: October 13, 2005 @ 6:00 p.m.