



## **IHMCS School Advisory Council Minutes January 12, 2006**

**Attendance:** Father Patrick Hipwell, Cheri Gardner, Brad Cook, Ann Olson, Ken Horst, Mark Ebel, Leslie Lohan, Ted Ceglia, Jane Victorey, Tim Benz

**Principal's Report:** Current attendance is 326. We picked up three students during Christmas break. There are lots of tours schedule for the next month. Majority are for prospective kindergarten and first grade families.

Catholic Schools Week is at the end of January. There is a teacher committee which plans the schedule for the week. Some events include Mass, Bingo Bonanza and Faculty volleyball game. The service project is making birthday boxes for guests at Mary's Place.

Cheri will be at Pax Christi for the education fair next weekend.

**Policy/Evaluation:** Ann presented a new policy concerning sudden or early withdrawal. Tuition and Fees Payment Policy (#2030) clarifies a family's financial responsibility to the school in the event a student removed from school without proper notice. There will remain some flexibility with the administration in cases of hardship or special circumstance.

The Policy was accepted with one minor grammar correction.

**Finance:** Ted reports that December finances are on budget. Tuition collections are running ahead of schedule. Pre-k and Preschool revenues are below budget, but Kids Care is running ahead of budget.

Health premiums for 2006-07 will come in at a 13% increase. Ted and the Finance Committee will bring financial scenarios to the February meeting. The tuition rate for 2006-07 will be set at this meeting. Currently, IHMCS has one of the lowest differentials between parishioner and non-parishioners tuitions in the Twin Cities. This is an area we need to discuss. We should be in line with other elementary schools of the Archdiocese. We want to remain competitive in the marketplace.

**Development:** Mark and Brad met and continue to discuss areas that overlap in the LR planning of the school and financial stability.

**PR/Marketing:** Postcards were mailed to 850 Pax Christi parishioners with school age children.

The Catholic Schools Week Open House is January 29. All faculty members will be on hand for the day.

Our conversion rate on tours for prospective families is close to 80% - which is amazing. We need to continue to have people visit and experience the great atmosphere of IHMCS to help build enrollment.

**Home and School:** Leslie reports that Kathy Ackerman (current parent) will be running a three session program on DARE. Topics will be Internet Predators, Meth and other Drugs and Bullying and Bystander. Sue Sullivan will help coordinate these meetings.

We will order 1000 parish cookbooks. These will be available in March.

There will be no Carnival this year. The schedule does not allow for the event with so many other events taking place during the spring.

Chair Report: Nominations will begin shortly. Please think of good prospects for the Advisory Council. Also, engage people in the committees. This is the best way to bring along willing and able volunteers.