

## **Nativity of Mary School Commission Meeting December 10, 2009**

Members Present: Therese Cassidy, Barb Castagna, Sue Koplin, Lori Matlon, Katy McGrane, Dan Riley, and Corinne Thomson.

7:35 Opening of Meeting

- Prayer
- Approved November minutes

### General Updates

- Feedback and discussion on Strategy Meeting with Fr. Steve: All felt that the diversity of groups represented (teachers, commission members, parish staff and school staff) was important in the brainstorming process. Barb shared that a similar meeting has taken place with just parish staff. Barb also has attended a meeting along with Tony and Fr. Steve with area Catholic schools about future planning. It was stressed at this meeting that support for Catholic education is being asked of from ALL parishes, not just the parishes with schools. Barb reminded the commission of the school staff's fall meeting to brainstorm areas of emphasis this school year and the four areas of technology development, starting of a preschool, continuing enrollment discussions, and differentiation of instruction were decided upon as the concentrations for this school year.
- Discussion of Next Steps from the strategy meeting: Much discussion was had on the zoning in of the most productive use of the commission and it's people. The advisory role of the commission was used at the strategy meeting, and now the commission has decided to commit to investigating one of the avenues brought up at the meeting to help keep Nativity successful. That avenue has to do with strengthening partnerships and relationships with area churches.

**Next Step:** A task force will meet on **Thursday, January 7, 2010 at 6:30pm** to start discussions of increasing visibility of Nativity of Mary School as a Bloomington Catholic school. Specific outreach plans will be devised for area Catholic churches and especially St. Edward's, St. Bonaventure, and Nativity of Mary Church.

- This task force will need to reach out to the marketing committee and partner their great work.
- More specific information regarding number of students, demographic information is needed to proceed. Tony and Barb will supply this.

- Katy will put an invitation to this task force in the News and Notes for all parents to get involved.
- Commission members will personally reach out to fellow parents asking them to enter the discussion on Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### Open Discussion

- In light of the discussion on enrollment, the tuition discount for “multiple students from one family” was brought up. It was advised to look into the feasibility of having this as an offering once again. Tony will need to be advised on this.
- To facilitate a better understanding of the finances of the school, Barb will ask Tony to drop in on a future commission meeting to field some questions.
- There was discussion on the role(s) of the commission and whether it is totally advisory OR a combination of advisory and task-initiative work. The commission needs to revisit the by-laws to be sure it reflects the true nature of its work this year.
- The January Commission meeting will be changed to a week later. It will take place on **Thursday, January 21.**

9:00 Meeting adjourned