

Nativity of Mary School Commission Meeting

January 21, 2010

Members Present: Therese Cassidy, Barb Castagna, Sue Koplin, Katy McGrane, Dan Murphy, Tim Forby, Corinne Thomson, and Fr. Steve.

7:35 Opening of Meeting

- Prayer
- Approved December minutes

General Updates

- Follow up on Brainstorming session: Approximately 25 parents and staff members were in attendance. A spreadsheet of ideas was compiled by Therese and distributed to all commission members and parents via e-mail. The meeting generated a lot of ideas. The spreadsheet will be shared with the marketing committee and it was purposed to gather a small group of people to follow-up on the brainstormed ideas. Sue shared that she was able to distribute posters to Normandale College daycare setting and at St. Ed's. Also, the phone calling campaign has started to families with 3-5 year olds.

One area on the brainstorming list was Catholic School Week masses at area churches. There are a number of things planned for the January 23/24 masses at Nativity of Mary Church. At all masses, the lector will a Nativity School student, the offertory gifts will be brought up by a Nativity School family, a short thank you to Nativity parishioners for their support will be stated by the lector, and all students are encouraged to wear their school uniforms. After the Sunday masses, KIDS council representatives will be selling candy bars for the playground funds and helping serve in the gathering space. Also, there will be an information table about volunteering at Nativity School and the school's display table and boards will be decorating the gathering space. At the 10:30 mass, a group of 4th-8th graders will be singing as well.

Action items:

- Katy will contact Kathy Schoenecker about a few announcements at the end of mass
- Barb will talk with the teachers about the display boards
- Barb will look into using the Nativity School display table at St. Ed's on the weekend of Feb. 7th and incorporate its presence with donut Sunday.
- We need to look into a good weekend to have the table at St. Boni's
- We need to consider having a presence with the information table at the 3 Bloomington churches in November next year and not wait until January.

- Katy will look into adding a volunteer position to the volunteer form that states the opportunity to be a Bloomington Catholic church representative for one of the three churches, Nativity, St. Ed's, and St. Boni's

Principal Updates

- Preschool Update: The Jan. 19th preschool open house was attended by approximately 20 families. Beverly Singhel, Joan McCrory, Lisa Heglard, Stephanie Lindberg and Michelle Knoll are the parents on the steering committee. Barb contacted a preschool teacher from the Apple Valley area and she is advising the committee. There will be 3 classes, up to 20 per class. There are 8 students already registered. The computer lab, youth room, and the extra multipurpose room near the parish office are the 3 areas being considered for the preschool setting.
- Technology Update: Phase 1 has begun with a pursuit to find funding for 3 smart boards to place in certain classrooms and laptop computers for the teachers. 3 LCD projects are now installed and being used in 3 classrooms. Rita Duerr, Jesse Robertson and Barb attended a presentation in Shakopee and there will be a smart board presentation given to the teachers in the near future. The school will begin working on a writing a grant for technology funds. Smart boards cost approximately \$3,500.00. The eventual goal is to utilize LCD projects, smart boards and hopefully other technology tools within all the classrooms.

Sub-committee updates

- Lunch Room update: Therese said the composting grant is just awaiting one more signature and then it is a go to start introducing the new "more green" waste-sorting process in the lunch room to all the students. Tina Flowers continues to do a lot of behind-the-scenes work on this project. KIDS Council "go green" committee will be making signs to help explain the new waste system. One of the goals of this project is to cut down on the garbage generated to allow the school to decrease its garbage pick-ups from 3 to 2 times per week.
- Update from Fr. Steve: The parish staff has been working on a strategic plan for 2010/2011. The next step is to bring this plan to the parish council next Thursday and then onto the parish leaders. A goal is to identify the many volunteer opportunities for all parishioners and then to make them known to all. Another goal of the strategic plan is to address declining numbers of people at weekend liturgy services.

Open Discussion

- It was requested that Barb invite Tony to come to February's commission mtg.

9:00 Meeting adjourned

