

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

Members Present: Therese Cassidy, Barb Castagna, Tim Forby, Fr. Steve Ulrick, JeanMarie Grassl, Sue Koplín, Lori Matlon, Katy McGrane, Dan Murphy, Dan Riley, and Corinne Thomson.

### 7:35 Opening of Meeting

- Prayer and Introductions
- Approved May minutes
- Review of Commission Mission Statement
- Selection of new positions
  - Chair elect—JeanMarie Grassl
  - Recording Secretary—Katy McGrane
  - PPC Liaison—JeanMarie Grassl will stay on at this time

### Principal Updates

- School mission statement and goal setting from meeting with teaching staff: As a follow-up from last spring's accreditation process recommendations, a new, more concise mission statement was decided upon. A committee made up of Rita Duerr, Carla Zenk, and Tim Thoreson helped with this process and will continue to work on the philosophy statement. The mission statement will be appearing in classrooms as the philosophy statement work finishes. In addition to mission statement work, four areas of concentration were decided upon by the teaching staff. They are as follows:
  - Enrollment/preschool/High Five program (on-going)
  - Curriculum adoption of reading/language arts (this school year)
  - Technology (on-going)
  - Differentiated instruction throughout the curriculum (staff development emphasis this year)
- Marathon and Fall Festival Update: The Marathon will change to a Friday afternoon this year. This is an effort to include more students, particularly middle school students. The students will receive t-shirts and be interacting within their PALS groups. It will be evaluated as to if the marathon will stay during the school week or return to the weekend for next year. The Fall Festival will take place on November 7<sup>th</sup> this year.
- School recruitment and student population: A lively discussion followed upon Barb talking about some ideas to spur recruitment of more students. She gave

some background on student populations in the area and particularly of Bloomington and other Catholic school in the southwest metro area. There is an Archdiocesan meeting taking place Sept. 12 at St. Richards to gather information and incite on the future of area schools and parishes. Lori Matlon and JeanMarie Grassl were hoping to attend. From our discussion a few action items were decided upon:

- There is a need for a business-model task force to investigate the feasibility of a preschool/high five setting for Nativity of Mary. Area preschools should be investigated. Possible members of this task force should have a specific skill set in order to accomplish this task. These members could come from the marketing committee, the commission chair-elect, teachers, parish and school members.
- The commission and marketing committee need to tap into each other with an invitation to the marketing committee to have a rotating member attend the commission meetings and possibly have a marketing sub-committee on the commission.
- Barb will be pursuing the possibility of asking a consultant to help with development of our school.
- We need to make a concentrated effort to communicate the great product that Nativity has to offer families. The school can work to perfect this product. This fall, teachers are doing just that by instituting guidelines established by the Top 20 training philosophy and bringing in middle school speakers on this proven philosophy.

#### Open Discussion

- There is a fields/grounds committee of interested parties looking at a potential grant to help redesign the layout of the property south of the church and school.
- Barb will talk with the teachers about finding safe places for band students to stow their instruments.
- An opportunity from the Archdiocesan office for board in-service was circulated to all commission members. There are 3 dates in October to attend. Nativity of Mary will pay the \$25 for this in-service if a member so chooses to attend

#### Fr. Steve Updates

- Wednesday Family Nights was off to a great start last night with more than 300 adults in attendance and a large number of children attending. There is still room for more to sign up.

- The parish council will be conducting a survey in the near future of parishioners to get a better feel for the needs of the parish. Much of the council's discussions have been around this theme and potential action steps.

9:10 Meeting adjourned