

St. Thomas Aquinas School Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes- September 17, 2007

In attendance: Rob Barker, Erika Wynne, Myra DeRoo, Anne Myer, Caren Bailey, Cynthia Scheller, Charlene Krushinsky, David McCarville, Celeste Furey, Maria Herrera-Bill, Jennifer Copeland. Those absent: Dr. McDermott, Wildcat Representative

The meeting was opened in prayer led by Cynthia Scheller.

The August minutes were approved with changes.

Principal's Report:

- ITBS testing completed on 9/18/07. Results may be ready by Parent/Teacher conferences in October; all parents to receive a copy of their child's report.
- Earth Science Club led by Ms. Tartaglia to begin in October. New Science/Vegetable garden to be located inside of fence behind flag poles.
- Day for after school Math Team and Quiz Bowl teams is being explored.
- Father Julius visiting classrooms
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade mission trip to California is tentatively set for April. It is a mandatory educational trip. This will be led by Father Kieran.

Teachers Report:

- Report provided by Mrs. Krushinsky. Overall, teachers reported that students are working hard and doing well. Projects and field trips are being planned for many grades. Smart boards are being used frequently (6<sup>th</sup>) and new grading scale is not negatively impacting students (3<sup>rd</sup>). Older grades requesting that Buck-a-jean day attire be reconsidered. Alternate Reading programs are being explored due to Scholastic policy changes.

PTO Report:

- PTO meeting on 9/19 at 6:30 in St. Clare Hall, theme of fundraising.
- Community Service projects for each grade level
- SCRIP is averaging \$2000/Sunday for the past three weeks. 80% of those who purchase are parishioners. Fall Sale was \$16,000.00, profits not calculated to date. Christmas Sale will be open to parishioners as well. SCRIP is a line item in the budget and needs to be supported.
- Need to work on ways of communicating upcoming events to parents

Wildcat Report:

- Tickets to Poker Night still available.
- Wildcat Gold Tournament on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Wigwam.
- Phase II of the ball field has been put on hold by the Diocese.

### Old Business:

- Changes to the handbook will hopefully be completed by March.
- Communication is needed to answer the many questions about the grading scale that have been raised by parents.

### New Business:

- Parent concerns over grading scale for Spanish, Art, and Music. Curriculum and grading standards need to be communicated.
- Accreditation: Is STAGS on track with their goal?
- Room parent guidelines: Cannot solicit money; all large Emails need to be cc'd to Dr. McDermott as information only, not for approval.
- Jr. High fundraising for missions and trips; guidelines need to be clarified.
- Review of the wish List is moved to next meeting.

### Liaison Reports:

- Finance: Met with bishop Olmstead; he was open and listened to the needs and wishes of our school. Financials were in last week's bulletin.
- Parish Council: Year of the Eucharist with many activities planned around the theme. Missions are Patterdale Pines and the adoption of Fr. Rafael's parish in the Philippines. Tables and umbrellas from Mexico will be added to the courtyard as well as two benches in the vestibule.
- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday collections go to charity.
- Funds were donated to complete the stained glass in the Adoration Chapel by the Tabernacle.
- A daily Mass at noon has been added.
- CTO: Beginning next weekend, information will be presented at Masses. Nothing in October as Annual Appeal will be in progress. Award letter should be mailed out this week for those receiving money from the general fund; Bob estimates it at around \$1550/child. This is not an exact figure. Suggestion made to announce CTO volunteer opportunities in weekly newsletter.
- Spirituality: School Mass was well attended with 81 donuts given out. Knights will need money for the donuts. Need to revisit free dress as a reward.
- Strategic Plan: Meeting set for October 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the conference room.

Items for next month's agenda include 10 minute silence at lunch time, 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip, accreditation, and free dress.

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

Next month's Board meeting is October 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the conference room.