

St. Peter's Education Commission
Meeting Minutes Sept 16, 2009

Present: Fr. Tony Borgia, Scott Gatchall, Lorri Stewart, Kristin Blunk, Kathy Morris, Cathy Stout, Jim Smith, Laura Brackett, Michelle Chopko, Tressa Reith, Sarah Bennett, and Mike Schopieray

I. Meeting called to order by Vice Pres. Kristin Blunk at 6:05 with prayer by Lorri Stewart

II. Minutes of Aug. meeting approved with correction of new date for Phone-a-thon of Oct. 4.

III. Old Business—A. status of computers for school. A set of class computers (25-30) was ordered for 8th grade as a pilot. Discussion followed about how to move this on into high school, such as in AP class, etc.

B. Tressa/Jim will check on a Non-Catholic rep since the departure of Jeff Parton

IV. New Business—A. Election of officers for 0-10 year. Bylaws were reviewed and it was noted that both reps and elected members are considered voting members. President—Kristin Blunk; Vice President—Michelle Chopko; Secretary—Laura Brackett
Laura will try to have the contact list updated by next meeting.

a. Member Status—1. Montessori Rep. Rebeca Weilbacker stepped down from the position. Jim will check on a new rep. 2. Since Scott Kleman announced he is less available for meetings due to his work schedule, Fr. Tony will check to see if he plans to continue as the St. Mary's rep.

b. Concerns from parents about the Jr. High about items on the supply list that teachers then say don't need as well as incidents of students bringing college ruled notebooks to find out that teacher will only accept wide ruled and students being penalized for this.

There were concerns about high school parents not being made aware of an expensive calculator until the students had their first class in August and therefore some families were unprepared and possibly unable to make an expensive last minute purchase; parents would like to know earlier to budget for the expense. Tressa will discuss this with teachers.

c. Shooting on 2nd St.—Concerns arose that police did not notify the school officials about the incident so that an informed decision could be made regarding how to handle such a situation. Someone suggested a letter to the police chief; it was decided that Jim S. will call Dave Schuerer to request that the school officials be notified regarding incidents in the proximity of the school.

d. Concerns/complaints that there is little flexibility with HS scheduling and that students have been put in classes they did not request and told there are no other options; also a report of erroneous information in letters sent to colleges. Some of this might be due to trying to fill classes, as 8 students are needed to fill a class. Some of this is possibly due to non-computerized scheduling, which takes long hours and is less accurate. This committee discussed the need to pursue a computerized scheduling program. Financial assistance was offered in the past by Academic Boosters. Tressa will check on the program proposed previously from Academic Boosters. Scott G. will send links to other scheduling software.

e. Admission/Discipline policy. 1. Questions arose over how the current students are admitted to the school, which includes transcripts, parent and student interviews, and principal interview. It was reported that we did not get complete information on some of the new JH students admitted this year. Suggestions were made to have a form that the family would submit to the prospective student's current/recent teachers to obtain a reference. A probationary period was also suggested for all students entering St. Peter's. It was discussed that we need to have a policy manual in place for Jr. High students.

f. Current JH discipline issues. 1. There have been incidents of students who were sent to the office who never arrived. Suggestions were to have teacher notify office that students are on the way; also, have student sign out when leave the room—this could track if multiple students are missing from rooms at the same time. There is a Q/A session scheduled for Sept 28 from 7:00-8:30.
2. Situations of potential sexual harassment—suggested that we request a Diocesan Representative (Frank Dilallo) who offers information sessions in this area come talk to students.

3. Suggestion made to schedule a 6th grade visit to Jr. High so they can see the facility and get a view of the Jr. High
- g. Laura had a request from a parent who wanted to know about AP test results. Wanted to know if there were statistics about the scores of the students who took the exams for each AP class.
- V. Reports
- A. Development—1. See Report 2. Silent Auction Chair this year will be Cheryl Gurski
 - B. Marketing 1. See Report 2. Curriculum Review Committee meeting rescheduled Oct 1. Have been receiving feedback from group prior to the meeting. 2. Would like to see alumni and parents give tips to H.S. students for college preparation, possibly establish a timeline that might be helpful.
 3. Per conversation with Mansfield Christian staff—their enrollment is down @ 70
 4. St. Peter's Elementary enrollment down 14 (includes Elementary & Montessori)
 5. The city Mansfield's population is down 3% overall
 - C. Montessori—see Report
 - D. Elementary—see parent Newsletter. Jim will continue to send paper letter home weekly and try to keep it to 1 page.
 - E. High/Jr High—1. See packet available to parents at Meet the Teachers Night.
 2. Paper interims will be sent for students with academic problems.
 3. Discussion about offering HS study hall. Mike Schopieray had some information from outside that indicated that approx. 25% of students used it for academic related activity. This committee discussed and recommended not offering study hall but suggested continuance of peer tutoring available before and after school by National Honor Society students.
 4. Information from Alumni indicate that college adjustment has been smooth and that students are prepared for college.
 5. There is still some aspect of time management, study skills, and organization that some students lack and this could be addressed. (Book called *The Organized Student* was referenced)
 - F. Superintendent—Fr. Tony—1. Fr. Tony is signing up visiting priests for Jr. High masses.
 2. He is visiting the elementary school.
 3. Still looking for Bingo Coordinator for one Friday a month and a Bingo Kitchen Coordinator
 - G. Safety—Meets at end of September.

Adjourn

Laura will do prayer at next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
 Laura Brackett, Secretary