

# St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic School

## School Advisory Council

**Minutes:** Thursday, November 20, 2014

### **Attendees:**

Fr. Cliff Smith	Patricia Opon
John Garvey	Annette Vela
Debbie Reed	Leigh Ann Clavenna
Claudine Humphries	Dee Williams
Gilberto Aguilar	Eileen Brosnahan

### **Opening Prayer – Fr. Cliff**

### **October – Minutes Reviewed and Approved**

#### **Fr. Cliff Update:**

- Costumed cast for Christmas pageant was chosen on Monday.
- Patti Corsi added to the program – Entertainment for Elizabeth – Elizabethan celebration mass and play in January.
- Working on Curriculum for Junior HS Theater Arts.

#### **Principal's Report:**

- Busy working on teacher evaluations.
- Working on Blue Ribbon application, this is a very involved process.
- Continuing classroom visits.
- Sent Tech letter to families, received very positive feedback with parents.
- Haven't moved forward with the technology due to focus on Blue Ribbon Application.
- There are three contacts that we are working with to provide the iPads (quotes).
- All Souls 5K – made minimum of \$7K hoping for a few thousand more – very successful event.
- Auction is moving forward and looking very promising.

#### **President's Report**

- Highlights from the Ministry conference attendees John Gilberto and Janiece
  - Most practical and actionable that we have ever attended.
  - Focus/message that times are changing and that the way children learn today is very different from the past.
  - Educational system designed for an age of industrialization and we are at a different time and the methods need to be upgraded.

- Mindset needs to be changed as to how we educate the next generation – with a Critical Focus on Technology.
- Example of one Catholic school that changed actually the environment to match with the new way of learning, ie the way classrooms were set up, etc.
- A few years ago we were provide material on the Catholic Standards project (Excellence in Catholic Schools) – the website contains several documents along the lines of surveys that we may be able to leverage these when we are looking to create our surveys. John felt that they are strongly encouraging schools to use this material.
- Look at if other schools are adopting the same materials/surveys? We will need to look into this.
- John Garvey provided this information regarding the survey in his notes to the SAC members and Administration. <http://www.catholicschoolstandards.org/>.
- Response rate on the technology survey – approx. 125 families.
  - Positive feedback on the survey and the letter that was sent out to families within a timely manner.
- Need to determine the best way to encourage parents to participate in our surveys but explaining that we are using the standards for Catholic Excellence vs. just our own creation.

**Committee Updates:**

- **Marketing – Debbie Reed**
  - Debbie showed the team the new business collateral with the new logo.
  - Making addition to the website to display examples that teachers are doing and projects that are being done. Videos, etc. additional content.
  - Idea around creating a promotional video for the school – fresh and updated.
  - Positive feedback on the letter regarding the Blue Ribbon nomination.
- **Finance– John Garvey**
  - First week of December to review the rough draft of the budget with Principal Opon and Annette Vela.
  - Once this meeting is scheduled we will have an extended budget committee meeting to review additional budget items.
    - Need to dive into the technology layers of cost and how to make it sustainable and expanding program.
  - Create a budget and a “plan B” as a contingency plan.
  - Goal to create a long term plan – will require extra time to ensure we cover all of the items
- **Other**
  - Claudine Humphries - Parent’s Feedback – review the School Policies & Procedures

- Having been on SAC for several years – positive and supportive group of SAC members – getting questions from parents etc. on policies and procedures for the staff – this is from the diocese. – Located on CSODallas.org. Cathdal.org.
- Plan to update staff and parent handbooks referencing the diocese information above. Based on information provided at a recent legal seminar, which Principal Opon and Vice Principal Brosnahan attended.
- View from Pew – Dee Williams
  - Family visited our school but decided to go to another school due to the male vs. female teacher ratio at St. Mark.

**Closing Prayer – Fr. Cliff**

**Adjournment**

**Next meeting Thursday, December 18, 2014 at 7:30am**