

## SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

February 2009

Lis Hohman, Randy Einem (Principal), Daryl Cole, Andrea Jensen, Andrea Dabrow, Danny Clinton (Preschool Director), Fred Whitacker (Chair), Mary Ann McCuistion, Jason Neben, John Steinmeyer (Elder)

Lis Hohman led the opening devotion.

The Agenda was moved and approved.

The following Student Leadership report was given:

- Denim for Dollars this time went to the American cancer society in memory of Carlos Reyes.
- January 24<sup>th</sup> the O.C.Q had their meeting at St. John's. Student leadership helped guide them, set up and take down, and served food. The students got high praise from our visitors. The event will be held here again next year
- Middle school dance –There were 750-800 cans of food donated. These food items served over 70 families at our food pantry.
- February 21 there will be a party at Mercy House. The girls from student leadership will attend this. Another event for the boys on student leadership is being scheduled.
- Student Leadership will serve treats on March 6 for special person's day.
- Students have been taking advantage of the peer tutoring. They have not had to provide any counseling.

### Announcements/Dates

#### February

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 16 | President's Day – NO SCHOOL                                    |
| 23 | Start of 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> grade BB Tournament |
| 25 | Ash Wednesday  |
| 26 | P/T Conferences - NOON DISMISSAL                               |
| 27 | P/T Conferences – NO SCHOOL                                    |

#### March

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| 1-8    | National Lutheran Schools Week                               |
| 6      | Special Person's Day – NOON DISMISSAL                        |
| 16     | Tech & Staff Development Day – NOON DISMISSAL                |
| 27     | Record Day & End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter – NOON DISMISSAL |
| 29-4/1 | WASC Team Visit  |

The January 2009 minutes were approved as presented.

Randy gave the following Principal's Report:

- WASC Process - Final reports have been submitted for edits and layout by the printer. The leadership team and Randy have also finalized the School Action Plan (SAP) or "Visioning the Future". They are prepared for the 3/31 – 4/1 visit.

- SAP – This action plan will happen over a 6 year period. Randy will begin by setting up two parent meetings (3/2 and 3/9) to present an overview of this plan and receive feedback. Parents can also see how they can be involved in this process using their talents and knowledge. Randy has already begun to set up teacher teams. The four goals are as follows -
  1. St John’s provides learning experiences that are equipping students, parents and faculty with knowledge and skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
  2. St John’s is recognized in both the city and county of Orange as a vibrant, nurturing, learning institution that meets the needs of the whole child.
  3. St John’s operates under a design and structure which empowers personnel for effective ministry throughout the church and school.
  4. St. John’s operates under a design and structure which funds both the present and future mission and vision of church and school.
  
- 2009-2010 Budget – a preliminary budget has been set up. Senior Staff will be presenting to Trustees in March. There will be a Plan A based on current projections, and a Plan B based on Worst Case Scenario. Part of the budget will include a restructure of the Pre-school staffing model
  
- Lunch area renovation – continues to be slow with the weather being the main factor. We are shooting for a 3/1 availability date.
  
- Baptism Chapel – we baptized 28 individuals – students and family members. Others expressed interest through church ministries.
  
- Website Work – Corey Witt and associates are working on this project. It is in rough form. A video crew will be on campus shooting for the website. Launch date is March 1, 2009 along with a mailer to the community highlighting the new site. We are working to update and improve the current school website. Also, through a private donation, there will be a full page ad in the Orange Plaza News talking about the ministries of St. John’s Lutheran Church & School.
  
- Randy will visit neighboring early childhood programs and give them info about our K – 8<sup>th</sup> program. His goal is to establish good relationships with these programs which could feed into our school.
  
- Absentee Policy – Teachers have approached Randy to write a more definitive absence policy. Randy added the underlined modification to the current policy – “Excessive absences can have a negative effect on grades as well as the benefits the student derives from the classroom. The faculty is very much concerned about students who are absent in excess of 20 days per school year. Re-enrollment may be denied if it is determined by the administration that there is a spirit of no-support and non-cooperation of the absentee policy.” It was suggested that a letter be written to families when their child is approaching 20 absences.
  
- Re-enrollment – We are at 92.5% retention for K-8<sup>th</sup>. Preschool is at 100% retention.
  
- 2009-2010 School Calendar – Randy is working on details for the upcoming year with his goal to reduce the number of ½ days, but still provide necessary time for staff development.
  
- Curriculum Leadership Team – Randy has established it and the members include – Sharon Frydendall, Yvette Stuewe, Katie Todd, Garry Unger, Karen Villegas, Marsha Hafer, Pilar Demeraest, Dennis Grice and Randy. They are working on developing a writing curriculum.
  
- Curriculum Development – By June 15<sup>th</sup>, Randy’s goal is to have a new writing curriculum in place. Along with this will be a strategy for staff development in order to properly equip teachers with knowledge and skill. In the 2009-2010 year they will be reviewing the math and Christian learning curriculum. 2010 – 2011 year they will review the Language Arts in addition to establishing a 6 year curriculum review as presented in the SAP.

- Kindergarten Readiness Assessment – Assessment for Kindergarten was Saturday Feb 9<sup>th</sup>. Initial feedback and evaluation indicates it went very well. Preschool and Kindergarten Staff will meet with Randy to evaluate and tweak for next year.
- Boys Varsity Basketball Team – St. John’s is currently exploring the pros and cons to the varsity boy’s team participating in the National Lutheran Schools Basketball Tournament held in Valparaiso, Indiana. It is likely the team will qualify. Meetings have been held with coaches, admin and parents. Funding would come from participants and private donations. There are no plans for using athletic funds to support this. All attendees must have their school accounts current in order for their son to attend.
- Teacher and Staff Intent to Return – The “intent” letter has been distributed to all faculty and staff. As of the board meeting, not all have been returned. The letters Randy has received have indicated plans to return.
- Auxiliary Auction – At this time it looks like the focus for the auction will be raising funds for supplying our physical education program and the purchase of a new playground structure to replace the structure located in front of the THINK house. A “fulltime” PE teacher for K-5<sup>th</sup> remains an item on the “wish list” of the Ministry Leadership Team (formerly Senior Staff).
- Student Teachers – We have been asked and Randy has accepted the placement of 2 student teachers from Concordia – Nebraska. They are husband and wife, Todd and Rachel Stahlecker. Todd will teacher under Nathan Mercier’s super vision and Rachel will teach under Lori Jaeger’s supervision. They will be on campus from March 9 – May 1.
- Teacher Aide Evaluation Tool – Randy is finalizing a tool for teachers to use to evaluate the performance of teacher aides.
- Playground Supervision – Randy wants improvements to be made on the supervision of our playgrounds that will result in a more favorable playing environment and less aggressive behaviors that contribute bullying. Modifications will be made immediately and a complete plan implemented for the 2009-2010 school year.
- Fall Festival Postponed – the MLT has decided to postpone the Fall Festival until fall of 2010. It was discussed that perhaps the fall festival go back to the smaller, one day festival it used to be. Randy and Auxiliary will look into other options.

Marketing/Enrollment Update – discussed in Randy’s report

Visioning the Future Update – Randy presented his extensive plan to the Board – see Randy’s report

Andrea Jensen gave the following Auxiliary Report:

- The golf tournament was held on January 19, 2009. They had over 80 golfers and raised over \$9,000.00 to help underwrite the auction.
- Silent Auction is March 14 and donations are slowly trickling in.
- Used uniform sale last time made over \$1000.00. The profits are split between the parents working the sale and go towards the laptops for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Auxiliary voters meeting takes place in March and they are currently contacting all eligible candidates for the Executive Board.

Technology Task Force has met twice recently. They are reviewing the 1-2-1 Laptop program, looking at the funding of our present year’s program as well as next year. Likewise, we are reviewing and modifying the “refreshing plan” for the current technology present in our buildings. Next meeting is March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting was adjourned with closing prayer.

Next Meeting – March 19, 2009.