

ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL COMMISSION  
February 2, 2010 Action Minutes

In attendance: Suzanne Siekawitch (Principal), Mike Therrell, Heidi Pike, Connie Barnes, and Nancy Finkeldei (Chair/Recorder)

Guests: Mrs. Christina Meza and Ms. Therese Larson (Pre-School/Pre-Kindergarten Programs)

**1. CLASSROOM REPORT**

- Christina Meza and Therese Larson gave a report on the Pre-School and Pre-Kindergarten programs. The commission members appreciated hearing about the curriculum and the various student activities as well as having the opportunity to ask questions. Christina also reported that parent participation has increased this year.

**2. REVIEW OF COMMISSION CONSTITUTION**

- The commission reviewed the amendments to the constitution made by Fr. Jay and discussed Article IV regarding Members. All of the attending commission members agreed to change the membership number to “no less than five and not more than seven members” in place of “no less than seven and no more than nine members.” This number seemed more appropriate due to the currently small size of the school.
- Nancy will make the changes to the constitution so that Suzanne can forward it to Fr. Jay for his approval.

**3. PASTORAL COUNCIL REPORT**

- Nancy filled in for Mike Therrell at the January Pastoral Council meeting.
- The Pastoral Council distributed a compilation of the Five-Year Goals from all of the ministries and committees and asked that we review the condensed goal statements for accuracy by the next meeting. The commission members agreed we should revise the statement to reflect the goals of the school commission more adequately.
- The suggested revision is:
  - To advocate for Catholic education and support our school’s mission.
  - To support the principal and pastor as related to the operation and growth of the school.

Mike will bring the revised wording back to the next Pastoral Council meeting.

- All parish ministries were asked to sponsor one of the monthly “Coffee and Donut” Sundays. Mike will let the Welcoming Committee know we will be happy to take either April 25 or May 23 date.

**4. SCHOOL GOALS/VISIONING REVIEW**

- School Enrollment/Grade Expansion: The group spent some time discussing the future growth of the school and how it might affect the need for additional room space. In the end, the group agreed St. Michael School would continue with the original plan of being a K-8 institution including pre-school and pre-kindergarten.
- The school would benefit in the short term by modifying half of the downstairs small hall by creating two separate rooms to accommodate increasing needs of the school and the parish (such as additional meeting space.)

- However, after looking again at the Master Plan for the Parish, the group agreed the best scenario would be to follow Phase 2 and 3 concurrently, which provides for an elevator/connector structure and the construction of a gym/multipurpose building. The new building with at least four incorporated classrooms would adequately accommodate the needs of the school as well as being an asset to many of the other ministries of the parish.

#### **5. UPDATE ON SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

- Suzanne reported the school received a bus as a donation. The group was excited about all the possibilities this vehicle might provide: transportation for new students in the Lake Stevens/Granit Falls areas, advertising for the school, transportation for field trips, etc.
- Suzanne also alerted the members about House Bill 1329 A that may require pre-school employees to join a union in order for the school to receive preschool program certification. The Archdiocese of Seattle encourages folks to write their legislators to ask them to vote NO on this bill.
- Suzanne and Heidi reported the School Spaghetti Dinner was a wonderful family event with great attendance. Heather did an amazing job organizing the dinner.
- The website [www.greatschools.org](http://www.greatschools.org) might be a way to promote St. Michael School. Our school is listed on the site but needs some reviews. Also mentioned was the possibility of having students recite the Pledge of Allegiance on the radio (105.3 FM.) as added publicity.
- We welcomed Connie Barnes, a school parent, who attended this meeting as a potential School Commission member.
- Heidi reported very low attendance at the last PTO meeting. The PTO is brainstorming ideas to make attendance at meetings easier for parents (fewer meetings, more email communication, an early morning meeting time?)

#### **6. SCHOOL WEBSITE**

- Heidi and Nancy brought in examples of other school websites regarding the spirituality aspect of their school. Not many schools have a dedicated tab for the Spiritual Life of the school. Most listed the activities and religious education the students did throughout the year. Suzanne has thoughts on what she would like to see under that tab and will let the commission review it before publishing it on the website. Heidi mentioned our website stands out as among the best that she reviewed.
- Nancy will provide Suzanne with the minutes from all of the 2009-10 school year meetings to date so that Bill Edgar can publish it under the School Commission tab of the website.
- As another enhancement to the website, folks will soon be able to fill out the school application online.

#### **6. NEXT MEETING**

- Tuesday, March 2, 2010, at 5:45 pm.