

St. Paul School Board
Approved Minutes
May 29, 2007

Chairperson Jane Sundheim call the meeting to order at 7:40 pm

Members Present: Mike Schmidt, Jane Sundheim, Beth McFadzen, Kris Tontis, Andrea Dedrick, Lynne Geiche, Christy Connell, Linda Cooney, and Michelle Varick, Barb Romanello (Teacher Rep)

Members Absent: Patti Burg

There was a brainstorming and listening session prior to the Call to Order. Please see ADDENDUM at the end of the minutes for more information about the positive comments and ideas to improve upon the quality education offered by St. Paul School.

Public Comment: Many members of the public were present and comments were as follows.

- Because we have a declining enrollment, we need to capitalize on what will draw people in? What makes us distinctly different from other schools and especially the public schools?
- The most successful Catholic institutions are the ones who are the Most Catholic. We need to catechize our children correctly. There is not enough religion taught at St. Paul
- We support our teacher and principal. Parents are the ones who need to step up and take responsibility for their children's behavior. We don't need a Guidance counselor to do that. We want you to readdress the counselor issue
- The board made curricular changes without consulting the teachers and the Board is not supposed to be involved in curricular decisions
- Teachers want the control to find solutions to curricular problems
- This particular board was never given an inservice on policies for School Boards
- We want the board to revisit the Spanish decision. People will go to Kettle Moraine to get Spanish
- Guidance will not make our school better.
- Are these children truly being bullied or are they only being teased? We dealt with it when we were kids. We already have counselors here.
- I am surprised by the guidance decision. We have Linda Cooney, Father Bob, and Len Grassman here to be our guidance.
- Are there exit interviews conducted? Parents should approach the teachers and principal about these issues.
- Linda Cooney has been misquoted. She did not complain about lack of minutes for instruction. Instead she discussed the issue of the afternoon recess during the winter. That time was then used for instructional time. It says in your minutes. I cannot find anywhere in the minutes that state that we don't have enough instructional minutes in our day.

- People send their children to Catholic school because they have a vested interest in doing so.
- This is not a personal attack on the school board. It's a compliment. We have not been to school board meetings because we felt things were being dealt with properly.
- Our job is to raise a quality human being. We just need to watch the enrollment tides. They will come back. We have the greatest counselor of all-God. Be proud.
- Despite the enrollment, it's great to have small class sizes, but money is an issue
- Father Bob stated that the board will have to revisit the Spanish and the Counseling issues
- At KM the middle school children have Spanish for one semester every other day
- If a curriculum is not working to you fix it or just throw it out?
- Parents weren't given the tools to evaluate the Spanish program.
- Spanish and Guidance are two separate issues.
- Kids will be kids and they will make fun of others. You should trust your teachers to handle it.
- Why didn't the board put this decision out to the parents?
- One cause for the decrease in enrollment is that the days of large families are gone.
- We should hit the foundation of faith as a reason to have families enroll in St. Paul.
- We need to be the role models we are expected to be. We need to be our best. Children learn from us how to treat each other. We need to show our children that we have a community that works together.
- What do we have to offer that's special?
 - Small class size
 - Religion
 - Moral Base
 - Curriculum is not really the issue
- A guidance counselor will cut the legs from the teachers
- We are a community. We need to be conscientious about what we are saying and about whom we are talking.
 - We need to be forthright with complaints.
- Teachers felt left out of this decision. There will be a teacher rep. At the board meetings again to avoid the communication problems.
- There should be an impartial party to do the exit interviews of families who leave St. Paul

The public left and then the board meeting continued.

There was a clarification discussion about the policy of board not being involved in curricular issues. There was also a discussion about the fact that we needed to define the guidance program.

There was also a lengthy discussion about team building within the board.

Motion to Approve the minutes by Kris Tontis. Second by Andrea Dedrick

New Business

- School Vision
 - Becky Heiman will compile all the ideas and tally votes from the brainstorming/listening session with the public
 - We will develop the annual goals and vision for St. Paul from those at the June meeting

Old Business

- Handbook deferred until the June meeting
- Dress code deferred until the June meeting
- School board self-assessment. Linda will email other district schools for self assessment

Committee Reports

- Buildings and Grounds
 - There is an issue with the room previously slotted for the K4 program.
 - Building of the church is on schedule
 - We'll have the dedication mass in November
 - New weekend mass schedule goes into effect this weekend
- Finance
 - There are 10 families behind in their tuition
 - There are 15 families behind in stewardship
 - Line items in the budget are all on target
- Middle School
 - Friends and Fun program has been very successful
- Marketing
 - We will have a spread in the bulletin being mailed home to families
 - Looking for help with the parades this summer.
 - The committee chairperson will no longer be a School Board member. The committee will have a School Board member present as a representative.
- Communication- no report
- K4
 - There has been a new committee formed
 - We are \$15,000 short for start up costs for the K4 program
 - We may not solicit money from the parish
 - We need to close that financial gap
 - Perhaps Home and School can help a little
 - We have the population survey
 - There will be benchmarking of other K4 programs when we are closer to opening
 - We lost the room anticipated for K4
- Home and School

- New officers were announced
- Father- daughter dance was awesome
- The grandparent luncheon was a hit
- Teen drinking program was not well attended
- The picnic lunch is coming next week
- Home and School stayed within the budget
- They are using their extra funds for playground
 - Swing sets
 - Jump ropes
 - Bases
 - Soccer goals
- There were \$2800 in profits for Scrip
- They will continue the contests next year for box tops and other fundraisers
- They fulfilled the class wish lists
- Replacing the front door with double doors
- Bullying
 - There was a meeting to discuss the bully program
 - Looked at the Guidance program at St John Vienny
 - There is a sticks and stones program from DPI that we could attain for free.
 - Ray Gallup will visit our school to discuss bully program
- Principal/Teacher report
 - Share day/Grandparent Day was great
 - Coffee with the principal had a very good turnout
 - Ribbon Ceremony for the 8th graders was very nice
 - Donuts with Dad had a large turnout
 - 5th grade held their County Fair
 - There will be a DARE graduation on Thursday (DARE program is getting more expensive, and may not be feasible in the future. Funding options will need to be considered)
 - 8th grade graduation will be held at St. Bruno's and then the reception held at St. Paul's
 - Kindergarten graduation will be Friday June 1
 - 8th grade appreciation was held with lots of well wishes and messages about God from lots of the students.
 - Field Day will be June 6th weather permitting
 - We are very close to getting our new 3rd grade teacher

Next time

- Dress code
- Handbook
- Install new members
 - Carol Kinney
 - Robin Gedney
 - Mary Maerker

- Vote for Officers
- Technology report
- Athletic report

Meeting with Fr. Bob to be set up to revisit decision on Spanish

Motion to adjourn Michelle Varick. Second by Mike Schmidt
Meeting adjourned at 10:05pm.

Respectfully submitted
Beth McFadzen
School Board Secretary

ADDENDUM

LANGUAGE ARTS 5 POSITIVES:

1. Six traits of Writing (6 dots)
2. Journal Writing (3 dots)
3. Tutoring (1 dot)
4. Spelling programs
5. Library program (5 dots)
 - Support for teachers
 - Librarian

"Newsprint" Results

LANGUAGE ARTS CHALLENGES:

1. Great Books (5 dots)
2. Differentiation of reading and spelling (4 dots)
3. High frequency spelling words (1 dot)
4. Use of portfolio (14 dots)
5. Use of rubrics (5 dots)
6. Challenging reading titles (5 dots)

SOCIAL STUDIES:

1. Strong S.S. Series
2. Special Projects
3. Opportunity for Hands-on learning (2 dots)
4. Integrated across curriculum (1 dot)

SOCIAL STUDIES MAKING IT EVEN BETTER

1. Missing WWII piece? (2 dots)
2. Social Justice? (religion) (4 dots)
3. Social Studies Fair (2 dots)

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT 5 SUCCESSES:

1. Great Home & School Association. (2 dots)
2. Parent service hour program (3 dots)
3. Weekly celebration of Eucharist (Mass)
4. Career Day (1 dot)
5. Parent involvement in sports
6. Father Bob teaching in classes (8 dots)
*Larry Norman?

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT 5 SUGGESTIONS:

1. Weekly Rosary (19 dots)
2. May Crowning (6 dots)
3. Bring nuns/seminarians in for Career Day (8 dots)
4. Major planning issues for school board should be clearly communicated to parents prior to meeting. (40 dots)

EXTRA CURRICULAR – POSITIVE

1. Ski Club (7 dots)

2. Strong middle school sports (1 dot)
3. Friends & Fun
 - Game Days (6 dots)
4. Student/Teacher Events (1 dots)
 - Talent Show
 - Basketball Game
5. Student Christian Formation

EXTRA CURRICULAR - SUGGESTIONS

1. Clubs: (19 dots)
 - Chess
 - Drama
 - Forensics
 - Choir
2. Inter-school activities: (8 dots)
 - Dances
 - Rec. Nights
3. Bring back Spring Concert in the evening (3 dots)
4. Teacher involvement
 - Sports games
 - Fun/pep days
5. Sports (2 dots)
 - Younger grades
 - “Catch The Spirit” (more spirituality in athletics)

SPECIAL CURRICULUM - SUGGESTIONS

1. Spanish Curriculum – BRING BACK (37 dots)
2. Children’s Choir for Masses w/RE & School (8 dots)
3. Music & Art Appreciation Coursework (Humanities) (6 dots)
4. Phy Ed Toe Tags – Exercise Outside Class (7dots)
5. Use of website (4dots)
 - Educate parents, community on school notes and Webgrader

6. Have computer lab open for middle school during day (10 dots)
7. Bigger Library/Separate Computer Lab (16 dots)
8. Evening Music Concerts (7 dots)
9. Need full hour for Art (13 dots)

PEER TO PEER – 5 Positive Things We Have

1. Buddy Program (12 dots)
2. Value (2 dots)
3. Daily religion (2 dots)
4. Kids Patrol
5. Friends & Fun (1 dot)

PEER TO PEER – Building on successes

1. Retreat and ongoing discussion (15 dots)
2. Guidance bimonthly program – Character Development (12 dots)
3. Parental involvement and education (7 dots)
4. Socials (5 dots)
5. Field Trips with Pen Pals (1 dot)

MATH POSITIVES

1. Great survey results from St. Paul graduates on being prepared for H.S. Math (Mrs. Pohlen!) (2 dots)
2. We have a great math tutoring program with a college-level math professor (2 dots)
3. Teacher availability before/after school for extra help as needed...
4. new textbooks & curriculum (2 dots)

5. Dedicated teachers and specialist available (6 dots)

MATH SUGGESTIONS

1. Have Math at same period every day (gr. 1-5) so students can go to their ability level (4 dots)
2. Greater emphasis on mastery of the basics, early on (gr. 1-3) reinforced with; (20 dots)
 - Games with math facts
 - Testing
 - More homework (?)
 - Manipulatives added to curriculum
3. More support for students
4. Marketing Math tutoring (Mr. Sundheim) available to all ages/ability levels. (2 dots)
5. Use recess for additional teacher time in all grades...
6. Math/Reading specialist for grades (K-5) to help students who may be struggling
7. Add 8th grade math class for advanced students (3 dots)

SCIENCE POSITIVES

1. The Science Fair (1 dot)
2. The Butterfly Garden in back
3. Good focus on words/science vocabulary
4. Current Science book is good
5. Social Studies – making learning fun “News Game” current events (1 dot)

SCIENCE SUGGESTIONS

1. Science should be more hands on – largest downfall is lack of science lab (11 dots)
2. Parent Volunteers could help with science/labs (1 dot)
3. Spanish should be brought back for 5-8th, but in a different form (5 dots)

4. Take advantage of exchange teachers
5. Art room should be converted into Science lab. (4 dots)
6. Science fair should be mixed up a little
 - Different expectations for different years

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