

## **Saint Mary's High School Advisory Board**

### ***In the Tradition of the Franciscan Fathers and Sisters of the Precious Blood***

The Mission of Saint Mary's High School is to provide a quality Catholic education by developing and sustaining a rich tradition grounded in Gospel and family values, discipline and respect.

### **School Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

Monday, February 8, 2010

5:30pm

Thomas J. Reilly Library & Resource Center

The Saint Mary's High School Advisory Board met on Monday, February 8, 2010, beginning at 5:30pm in the Thomas J. Reilly Library & Resource Center.

The meeting was called to order by President, Jeff Glenn.

Members present: Jeff Glenn, Roseanne Osborn-Perez, Adele (Lillian) Trujillo, Stan Bednarek, Evelyn Dawson, Rosie Perez, Kurt Schuler, Vernon Speshock, Stephanie Villa, Michael Ward and Cindy Zapien.

Attendees: Suzanne Fessler, Liz Hansen, Sarah Tellez, Victoria Placencia and Johnny Young.

Rosie Perez led the group in an opening prayer.

No audience was in attendance.

The minutes of the January meeting were reviewed. They were approved as submitted. These minutes will be posted on the school web site.

#### **Reports:**

The Student Council Report was presented by Victoria Placencia and Sarah Tellez. They reported that they had attended the state convention and that our student council had received 3 awards. Dr. Rockwell received an award for Outstanding Advisor of the Year. We also received a Gold Level Award for our Smiles of Christmas service project. We also were awarded the Council of Distinction Award. The Student Council is planning their annual Easter Basket drive. These baskets will be given to St. Matthews's students this year. The assembly held during Catholic Schools week went very well. The Valentine's Dance sponsored by the frosh student council was well attended.

Miss Placencia also reported for the Key Club at Saint Mary's. They are planning a dinner/auction for February 27<sup>th</sup> to be held at Banner Good Samaritan Hospital. This will be a fundraiser for the Key Club.

All members of the St. Mary's community are encouraged to attend. There will be a Diamondback tickets and other drawing items.

Miss Tellez reported on the Youth for Life trip to San Francisco. She and Jeanette Tablas were senior leaders for the trip. They plan to volunteer to next year as young adult leaders. They reported that the march was smaller than the Washington DC march. They were not presented with as many protestors along the route. It was a prayerful and moving experience for all who attended.

Katie Barr received an honor at the Martin Luther King Basketball Classic held at ASU. She was honored for all of her charitable efforts here at Saint Mary's and in the community.

Johnny Young presented the Parent Organization Report. Mr. Young presented the Board members with a draft of the Parent Organization By-Laws. Any comments or suggestions for revision should be sent to him by March 3<sup>rd</sup>. He also distributed a printed copy of the student directory for 2009/2010. There will be a form in the Registration Packet for the 2010/2011 school year, asking the parents to submit the paperwork if they do NOT want to be in the student directory for the next school year. By the end of March 2010 we should have a list of incoming frosh in the computer. Work can begin on the student directory for next year, at that time. It is hoped that the Parent Org can begin to contact new families during the summer months. The January and February meeting of the Parent Org were not well attended by SM families. It is hoped that the March meeting, to be held at 5:00pm, will be better attended. It will be the election of officers for the upcoming school year. The Parent Retreat is in the planning stages. They hope to have it sometime during Lent. They are going to contact Mr. Kelly about the possibility of offering service hours to those students who have parents attending the retreat. Parent Org will be assisting with the Fashion Show and also the Project Graduation.

There was no Athletic Department Report.

There was no Development/Scholarship & Benefit Report. Mrs. Fessler reported that the Fashion Show was a very nice event. There is no financial report yet from the event. There were 25-30 silent auction items and some raffle items. Alexis serviced the luncheon in the cafeteria and the fashion show was in the auditorium. There was a live auction with 5-6 items. Many SM students were involved in the event.

Mrs. Fessler presented a written Principal's Report. She reviewed the student population and noted that there has been a drop in the number. She reviewed the activities of Catholic Schools Week. Our students created rosaries in their Theology Classes on Monday. Tuesday was an all school Mass. Wednesday representatives attended the Mass at Sts. Simon and Jude and the rally at the State Capitol. Mr. Kelly was given an award for 25 years of service. St. Mary's was recognized in the Senate as the oldest Catholic High School in Arizona. Thursday students viewed a movie "It's a Beautiful Life". Discussion followed in their Theology Classes. Friday was a special schedule with an assembly and community building, followed by lunch and prayer in the gymnasium. Students responded well to the reflection and silence of Benediction in the gym.

The Course Catalogue will be distributed to students as they begin their course selection for next year. There will be a new Theology curriculum next year. Frosh and Soph will have new textbooks. The subject will be scripture for both classes. There will be no Catholic Formation Class offered under the new curriculum guidelines. Catholic Formation will become a Club at SM and act as a service organization. Fundamentals of Geometry will be offered. The Course Catalogue will be posted on the web site for review.

Channing Frye's jersey was retired in a special assembly. The Suns invited the media to cover this special event. It was well attended by his family and many of his past coaches. A reception was held after the assembly. Mr. Frye intends to partner with SM and provide speakers and materials promoting a healthy lifestyle and good nutrition. He will speak to our students in the spring during a kickoff assembly.

Questions were raised about the negative article in the Republic regarding the girls' basketball program. Discussion followed. Members of the Board suggested that we should be proactive and invite any interested individuals to review our policies. Mrs. Hansen supported Mrs. Fessler in her decision to provide "no comment" to the questions from the reporter.

Mrs. Hansen reported that the tax credit organization (remaining anonymous) has awarded SM students with \$346,000.00 in financial assistance. One hundred sixteen families will be awarded this money. Mrs. Osborn Perez congratulated Mrs. Hansen and her staff for their efforts to complete this huge project. It was noted that this award will pay tuition for the remainder of the school year for many families. We don't currently know if this will be a "one time only" award or if we will be allowed to apply to them in the future.

Tops for Kids have made their award of \$70,000.00 to our students.

Mrs. Hansen reported that the cash flow from athletic gate receipts is much lower than previous years. The student count is lower than we budgeted for. We have a spending freeze in place for the remainder of the year. All departments have been asked to limit their spending to necessary items.

The Strategic Plan Committee will meet on February 20, 2010. Members of the SM Community and current staff will serve on this committee.

The Buildings & Grounds committee presented a written report. They plan a campus walk-through in April or May of this year.

Adam Oligschlaeger, teacher at SM, has joined the Technology Committee.

Michael Ward reported that he has reviewed the Teen Magazine as requested by Mrs. Fessler. It was determined that there is no advantage to becoming a contributing member of this publication. The magazine is viewed by teenagers, for the most part, and covers a wide variety of subjects. We would have no real control on what opinions were shared by the teen authors in this magazine. It was

noted that future controversial topics may be an issue. There was deemed to be no positive result in being associated with the magazine and some possible negative feedback.

One hundred sixty three eighth grade students have tested and expressed an interest in attending Saint Mary's. This number is about one hundred students less than last year.

If anyone is interested in joining the Marketing Committee please contact Mr. Ward.

The Bylaws were approved last month. Mrs. Fessler will submit them to Mrs. Mueller. The By-laws committee has finished their work and will not continue meeting.

Old Business: Plans have been created for the "Plaza" on the closed portion of Sheridan Street. The plans will be submitted to the city of Phoenix for approval and then let out for bids. The amount of the bid will determine if we are able to go ahead with the project.

Bus Passes were discussed. There are reportedly "South Mountain" bus passes that have been issued to students at that school. We are trying to find out if such a program might be available to Saint Mary's also. Mrs. Hansen will contact the trip reduction department to determine if there is a special program we could apply for.

New Business: The Diocesan School Board is seeking new members. If interested, please check the web site for required qualifications. Please check with Mrs. Fessler or Mrs. Mueller if you are interested.

We are recruiting members for the SM Advisory Board. The information will be posted on the web site as well as advertised in the Green Streak. Board Members are encouraged to recruit individuals who would be willing to serve on the Advisory Board. If anyone has questions about these SM positions they may contact Mr. Bednarek.

Mrs. Fessler suggested to the Board that our Senior Awards Night might be held on our campus this year. We would use the auditorium, lobby, plaza and hall way of Piper Hall for the event. The cost of renting a facility and ordering food has become quite high. This has been discussed at the administrative level and a decision would be made soon.

Rosie Perez led the Board in the Our Father, as closing prayer.

Michael Ward will lead the prayer at the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

