

**Saints Peter and Paul Regional Catholic School Board Meeting
Minutes
March 23, 2011**

Attendees: St. Paul—Sr. Clara Fehringer, Anne Wells
St. Peter—Fr. John List, Alan Parrish
St. Peter Claver—Greg D'Angelo
Pax Christi—Joan Jahnige, Sonya Morris
St. Luke—Kristi Adams
Holy Spirit—Don Mills, Jennifer Annis
At large—Sally Stevens, Rose Lucas, Tom Rolfes
Principal—Julie Wright, Stephanie Urbanek (assistant)
Faculty/staff—Therese Morris, Annette Justice, Debbie Cambron, Gerard
Newhouse, Beth Ettensohn
Development—Jeanne Miller
Guests—Jewel Duncan, Jenn Krouse, Kelly Curry, Mellissa Rasmussen, Bill
Barr

Absent: Bob Hewett, Billy Martin, Ellen Kessler, James Weathers

Call to Order and Opening Prayer

The meeting of the Sts. Peter and Paul Regional Catholic School (SPPS) board was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Sally Stevens, chair, after determination that a quorum was present.

The opening prayer was led by Sally Stevens.

Approval of February 2011 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Anne Wells to approve the minutes of the February 2011 SPPS board meeting. Motion seconded by Don Mills and approved unanimously.

Principal's Report

Mrs. Wright gave the principal's report.

There are 500 students currently enrolled, with 512 actively enrolled for next year.

There has been one additional suspension since February 2011 (6th grade) and one recommended expulsion (8th grade) that resulted following an appeal to the Diocesan Schools Office, in a home-based independent study for the completion of the school year. The school leadership team has developed school-based policies to include action steps for the school, student and parent as well as guidelines for consequences. (These are presented for board approval, for the 2011-12 student handbook.)

Terra Nova testing for grades 2-7 will take place April 11-22, 2011. Testing will include an assessment of catechesis religious education in grade 5 and 8. Students in grades K-1 will be given a standardized reading assessment, the Gates-McGinite. Along with the rest of the diocese, SPPS will utilize measures of academic progress (MAP) testing next year for grades K-8.

Eighth grade students are being taught Theology of the Body, and the text God's Plan for You—Theology of the Body for Young People is being used. This course is taught in guidance by Mrs. Urbanek and is in conjunction with a unit on human reproduction by Mrs. Morris in science, DARE discussions of abstinence by Officer Richards and Catholic church teachings by Mrs. Guadagni. Theology of the Body is based on the teachings of Pope John Paul II to help youth develop respect for themselves and life. There are plans to move the current program and textbook down to a lower grade also. Parents were notified about topics to be discussed and were encouraged to review the textbook and ask questions.

Mrs. Urbanek presented the SPPS policy on bullying and harassment, which is intended to ensure that students learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment. Bullying is a series of unprovoked anti-social behavior that targets other persons. It is deliberate, hurtful behavior, repeated over a period of time where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves. Bullying can be physical, verbal and indirect. Ongoing harassment that is reported and documented will not be tolerated. School action steps include sustaining the PeaceBuilders' program; identifying bullying behaviors; increasing supervision during lunch, recess, bathroom breaks and transition; mediating; and establishing and publishing a policy on bullying that provides action steps for prevention and intervention. Student action steps include living the PeaceBuilder's pledge. Teacher action steps include listening to students and taking reports of bullying seriously, providing support to the victim and educating the bully, helping him/her to change the behavior. This policy is presented as a first read for the board, and edits are to be sent to either principal before the next board meeting. The diocesan policies on harassment/bullying and internet safety were presented also. SPPS is sponsoring an internet safety night program soon. Brief discussion ensued about the PeaceBuilders program, which was instituted as an action of the board a few years ago. Mrs. Stevens noted that manageability of monitoring social networking and cyberbullying is a frequent topic nowadays in education circles. Officer Richards (D.A.R.E. leader) has been invited to attend an upcoming board meeting to discuss cyberbullying and a school's role (responsibilities and limitations) in activities that occur outside of school.

At the early childhood campus, summer camp will run from May 31 through August 5, 2011. The preschool classes recently attended the Irish dancers program at the main campus and have experienced the Living Arts and Science Center's Star Lab. Dr. Seuss' birthday was celebrated as well. In anticipation of a kindergarten classroom being available in the summer, the ECC has explored the option of opening a second toddler class, which would allow acceptance of 8 children who are currently on a waiting list. The cost to start the class would be \$3500. A motion was made by Anne Wells to

approve the addition of a second toddler class. Motion seconded by Don Mills and approved unanimously.

Ms. Ettensohn presented the Fine Arts update. The next gallery hop is scheduled for April 15 and will feature works of art club members and eighth graders. The June 11 gallery hop will feature the work of John Quinn, with proceeds from sales to benefit St. Peter Claver parish. The healthy living expo is March 25 and 28. The first “Series with the Saints” was very successful, and approximately 150 people attended. The next installment will be April 28 and will feature the UK steel drum band. The diocesan area band concert was March 22, and the SPPS spring band and chorus concert is May 25.

Committee Reports

Facilities: Don Mills reported that this committee met on March 13, and the primary focus was water on the gym floor. The contractor and the architect have been involved, and at this time there is no cause for alarm, as the recommended temporary fix has worked. Mr. Newhouse is working with Mr. Fitzsimons, the architect, pointing out items that need attention by Alliance before the building’s warranty expires. Sonya Morris suggested that any possible mold issues be investigated and corrected as soon as possible.

Mr. Newhouse reported that school rental requests have skyrocketed. There are 9 rentals planned in the next 2 months. All parish bulletins have information about space rental. The theatre capacity is 250 (theatre seating) and 150 for table/chair set-up with a 12’ x 12’ dance floor.

Finance: Anne Wells reported that February was a fairly smooth month, but March should be better, as that month’s financials will reflect the Mardi Gras revenue.

Development/Capital Campaign: Jeanne Miller reported that the March 24 “Series with the Saints” is another opportunity to get new people in the building. Childcare will be available at the next event also. The Downtown Lexington Corporation will have its next meeting at SPPS on the morning of March 24.

To date, phase two of the Capital Campaign has garnered \$118,250 in pledges (54 donors). Board participation in phase two is poor (only 4 members have participated thus far), and board participation was strongly encouraged. The Script and Kroger card programs were briefly discussed and should both be promising fundraising tools. The possibility of bingo has been mentioned. There will be a used book sale in May.

There was brief discussion regarding second collections at the partner parishes to benefit SPPS directly. Mrs. Stevens questioned whether or not diocesan approval is required. No decisions have been made about second collections, but Sr. Clara recommended to Jeanne Miller that parish leadership meetings be held. Mrs. Stevens also suggested expanding the development committee, reaching out to possible members via Kids Mail, the school website and parish bulletins. Sr. Clara thanked Jeanne for all of her efforts in leading these committees.

In response to questions from the community, Jeanne Miller also presented information related to the initial capital campaign and building costs:

- The school renovation cost approximately \$11.5 million (main building and new roof at the ECC) and \$1 million (ECC).

- SPPS received a grant from the W. Paul and Lucille Caudill Little Foundation of which \$357,000 went toward building renovation at the main campus. The Little Foundation also provided an additional \$108,000 to assist with the implementation of an arts program (i.e. hiring full-time visual arts and drama teachers). The school has continued to apply for additional grants to locate other sources of funding.

- The total amount raised in cash pledges and gifts for the Saints Alive campaign was \$1,810,182. Some pledges are yet to be completed. We have averaged 95% on donors completing pledges. SPPS received an in-kind donation of the science lab from Alltech that is valued at approximately \$165,000. An in-kind donation for signage is valued at approximately \$20,000. SPPS has paid out approximately \$1.7 million in cash as of January 2011.

- The Saints Alive campaign had 549 donors. The six partner parishes contributed the following amounts: St. Paul--\$870,812; St. Luke--\$64,045; St. Peter--\$48,749; St. Peter Claver--\$15,000; Holy Spirit--\$9600; Pax Christi--\$775.

- Initially, the construction project borrowed \$5 million from 5/3 Bank by an industrial revenue bond (IRB) issued by the city of Lexington. When the costs of the entire project were finalized, SPPS rolled over the initial \$5 million bond into an IRB loan with PNC bank in the amount of \$10 million at an interest rate of 3.95%.

- SPPS has borrowed \$520,000 from the diocese of Lexington. An additional \$800,000 was borrowed from PNC on the ECC construction.

Other Reports

PTO: Connie Carr reported that Mardi Gras was a huge success, with \$55,000 raised. Much thanks go to Greg D'Angelo and Misty Carlisle. The back-to-school picnic is planned for August 13, 2011 at the Tates Creek pool. The basketball ticket raffle committee will meet in mid April.

Old Business

The second strategic planning session was held on March 19, and approximately 25 people attended. A vision statement was developed, and SPPS's strengths and opportunities for growth were examined. After brief discussion, Mrs. Stevens proposed adding a planning committee. A motion was then made by Alan Parrish to add this as a

fourth committee, and the motion was seconded by Anne Wells and approved unanimously. Membership will be encouraged via Kids Mail and parish bulletins.

New Business

Alan Parrish, Anne Wells and Ellen Kessler have volunteered to serve on the nominating committee to develop a slate of officers for next year's SPPS board. A motion was made by Rose Lucas and seconded by Don Mills to approve the membership of the nominating committee. Motion approved unanimously.

Other Business

None

Parent Comments

Jenn Krouse presented a list of fundraising ideas, and these were enthusiastically received by those in attendance. Some of the items discussed were the M25 project (the parable of talents), wristbands, trivia night, cookbook, and bingo.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Anne Wells and seconded by Don Mills, to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Adams, secretary