

Saints Peter and Paul Regional Catholic School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2013

6:00 p.m.

Attendees: Stephen Clements, Kristi Adams, Melissa Rasmussen, Dennis Bender, Sr. Clara Fehringer, Debbie Spike-Pierce, Allen Garner, Chris Thiel, Pam Rice, Charlotte Webb, Lesley Farmer, Bill Barr, and Fr. John List.

Representatives: Jeanne Miller, Candace James, Julie Kelley, Anna Martin, Debbie Cambron, Lisa Oeltgen-Peyton, Tim Weaver

Absent: Sonya Morris, Greg D'Angelo, Dc. James Weathers, Jenny Parker

Call to Order and Opening Prayer

The meeting of the Saints Peter and Paul Regional Catholic School (SPPS) advisory council was called to order by Bill Barr, chairperson, at 6:08 p.m. after determination that a quorum was present.

The opening prayer was led by Sr. Clara.

Approval of November 2012 SPPS Council Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Stephen Clements to approve the November 2012 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Sr. Clara and approved unanimously.

Management Team Reports

President Jeanne Miller

-Enrollment is 423. Open enrollment begins in the next few weeks.

-The annual fund has raised \$15,150 to date since its kick-off in December 2012. (This amount is separate from the \$60,000 raised for technology.) The Eagles' Wings program will be launched soon.

-Mardi Gras is February 9, and \$12,000 in sponsorships has been secured. There are 15 live auction items. Fundraising goal for this event is \$50,000. Volunteers are needed for clean up on Sunday, February 10 at 8:00 a.m.

-Administration, council leadership, and diocesan staff have begun work on the 2013-14 budget. There was brief discussion about lack of tuition alignment for all Lexington parochial schools. Attention will be paid to SPPS in-parish, out-of-parish Catholic, and non-Catholic rates, as compared to the other Lexington parochial schools.

-Three coffee chats have been held in the last month. These are a forum for parent-school communication. While lightly attended, they have been very productive. A recap of items shared will be posted in an upcoming Kids Mail.

-Brief discussion ensued regarding the SPPS marketing budget as it stands currently and what it should be optimally.

Principal Candace James

- At the invitation of Bishop Gainer, Faustin Weber from John Paul II High School in Nashville recently visited the Lexington diocesan schools. He was very impressed with the facilities and with the downtown location of SPPS in particular. He will be meeting with the individual school councils and giving recommendations to Mr. Weaver and to Bishop Gainer in the near future. A special SPPS council meeting will likely be held when he returns to Lexington. More information will be provided.

-MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) testing is ongoing. This is the second testing session, following one at the beginning of the school year. The third round of testing will occur in May 2013. Assessment information will be shared at the next council meeting, and results will be sent home with the next report card.

-Catholic Schools Week began today. The committee in charge has planned many school wide events. There will be a parents' night on January 30. Many deacons were on campus today, and Fr. Bush from St. Luke parish in Nicholasville visited as well.

-The middle school academic team placed second in the district Governors' Cup competition and won the Hume Sportsmanship Award. Ms. Hancock has done a great job with the team, who competed against two Fayette County public schools with gifted and talented programs. Many students will be competing at the regional competition on February 2.

Early Childhood Center Director Anna Martin

-The ECC is undergoing voluntary STARs quality assessment. Staff will be working very closely with a mentor who will help to train and prepare us to be evaluated in late April or early May. The STARs program is intensive in every area of childcare from sanitation, to room lay out, to

diapering, to classroom materials, and more. The Childcare Council will recognize the ECC as a STARs rated program upon successful evaluation.

-The new age group adjustments to the Little Angels program are now in place. Infant is 6 weeks to 8 months; Crawler is 6 to 14 months; Toddler I is 12-20 months; Toddler II is 18-26 months; the Twos are 24-30 months; and the Transition group is 30 months-entering PK.

-Students entering PK3 for the 2013-14 school year will exit the Little Angels program this summer and will attend Summer Camp. This is necessary to prevent Little Angels from backing up and movement in the program coming to a standstill. Plans are already underway for the 10-week summer camp.

-Thursday, January 31 at 6:15 p.m.—Little Angels parent meeting to cover the topics mentioned above.

Pending Business

The accreditation process requires that the school's mission statement be reviewed periodically. Recently, administration and staff members have developed two proposed mission statements. These were sent electronically to council members for the review prior to tonight's meeting.

Fr. List made a motion to amend the drafts to insert "as a ministry of the Catholic Diocese of Lexington, this school...". Motion seconded by Dennis Bender. After brief discussion, the motion failed.

Debbie Spike-Pierce made a motion to accept Draft A. Motion seconded by Chris Thiel. Motion failed.

Pam Rice made a motion to accept Draft B. Motion seconded by Lesley Farmer. Motion failed.

Allen Garner made a motion to accept Draft C. Motion seconded by Fr. List. Motion failed.

After brief discussion by the group, Allen Garner made a motion to adopt Draft B. Motion seconded by Pam Rice and approved unanimously.

The new SPPS Mission Statement is

Christ is the inspiration and foundation for Sts. Peter & Paul Regional Catholic School. This school is committed to: fostering Catholic values and embracing diversity; academic excellence and rigor through an arts-infused curriculum; and differentiated instruction for each child to attain his or her full potential. We value the collaboration with our community and partner parishes as we develop faith-filled, life-long learners.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee: Melissa Rasmussen reported that the Finance Committee is meeting regularly. Ms. Rasmussen is working on a review of the audit report done in 2011 as well as working with administration on current year budget and 2013/14 budget.

Health & Wellness: Jeanne Miller reported on behalf of Greg D'Angelo. A student had an anaphylactic reaction during aftercare on Friday 1/25. The child had eaten a snack with a peanut. This child had not been identified through paperwork and parent communication as having a peanut allergy. Mr. Minton, the aftercare supervisor, immediately recognized the symptoms and brought the child to the office for an epipen injection. Mrs. Miller stated that staff member, Christie Pabin, was on hand. Ms. Pabin has children with anaphylactic allergies and administered the epipen. Mrs. Miller reported that there were lessons learned from this experience. While the reaction was happening, and appeared to be moving slow, the office got the parent on the phone. There was discussion regarding the use of an epipen. The lesson learned is with the anaphylaxis policy in place, there is no need or time for discussion when a child is having a reaction. The training from Dr. Arora and the policy confirms the need to move swiftly in using the epipen. An injection is not going to harm a child if used. The office called 911 and the child went to the hospital and went into another reaction hours later after the initial epipen wore off. The child is OK and is back to school.

Technology: Bill Barr reported that he hoped during the budget process the school can make a move to the next level for technology in regards to iPads (or other devices) in the middle school. Mr. Barr mentioned the plan that Lexington Catholic is rolling out next school year requiring all students to have a device of some sort (PC, iPad, Macbook, etc). Providing one-to-one technology for SPPS students will prepare them appropriately for moving on to high school. Mr. Barr spoke to the concern of allowing students to bring in their own devices and that SPPS would consider a plan that would allow monitoring of machines and wiping them clean daily (automatic wiping system).

Development: Jeanne Miller reported that the Annual Fund was launched in December and to date has raised \$15,150. She asked that all council members consider an Annual Fund donation to show support from the Council, regardless of the size of the gift. Additional Annual Fund mailings are going out. Jeanne also reported that Eagles' Wings has been launched in soliciting donors, but work still needs to take place that involves establishing a committee to set criteria as well as a selection committee. Allen Garner reported on donor recognition and the committee's recommendation to recognize giving levels by combining the different areas of giving (Annual Fund, Technology, Eagles' Wings, etc). This recognition will show the true level of support from donors as opposed to breaking it up into different giving areas.

Facilities Committee: Jeanne Miller reported on behalf of Sonya Morris. The Facilities committee is made up of individuals who participated in the building process. The committee meets monthly and is currently working on a matrix to manage cleaning, maintenance and capital needs for the facilities. Also instituted is an action list document to track completion of facilities tasks/projects.

Fine Arts Committee: Dennis Bender reported that the Eagle Arts program completed its first semester with participation by community arts programs including Academy for Creative Excellence (ACE), FAME and Lexington Children's Theatre. There were 90 entries in the first semester.

SPPS held its annual Talent Show on January 10th and included acts ranging from ballet, tap dancing, fencing, comedy, singing etc.

In January, two performances were available to SPPS students at the Lexington Children's Theatre. In December, the 1st and 8th grades attended the Nutcracker at the Opera House. Upcoming events include Dance SCAPA and a production on bullying performed by Sayre students.

Gallery Hop is February 15.

1st-3rd graders are doing an Art Club.

4th-5th grade is practicing for "Schoolhouse Rock" musical to be held Feb 22 & 23.

Looking at a partnership with Living Arts & Science Center and Laurie Preston is working on a partnership with ACE.

SPPS will have a visitor from CAPE, an arts school in Chicago. The trip will focus on 1st, 2nd and 8th grades. Administration, staff and council members will be scheduling a visit to CAPE in Chicago in the spring.

ECC Committee: Debbie Spike- Pierce reported that the age transitions are going well at the ECC. Also reported that a Coffee, Chat & Chew will be held in February with Anna Martin. And the ECC is planning a celebration for STAR certification in the spring.

Other Reports

PTO: Lisa Oeltgen-Peyton reported that a meeting was held with administration to identify the teacher wish list items to be purchased. PTO funds are being used for these purchases. Something was allocated for every grade level from infants up through 8th grade. The next PTO meeting will fall on Ash Wednesday.

Other Business

Jeanne Miller reported that she and Candace James inquired about applying again for Blue Ribbon status. The national organization informed them that their Blue Ribbon status is still active and we would not even be eligible to apply again for at least 3 years. During Faustin Weber's visit with Candace James, his feedback was once you are a Blue Ribbon school you are always a Blue Ribbon school.

Bill Barr recognized that the next council meeting is February 25. Since the school is in the budget process, there may come a recommendation for a tuition increase and he would want this vetted and approved through the council. A special meeting may need to be called.

Mr. Barr mentioned that SPPS is doing Junior Achievement and wants to provide volunteers for as many classes as possible. He solicited volunteers through the council to teach these 5-6 week classes. JA provides the materials and guides; volunteers just need to prepare and give their time.

Mr. Barr reported that 5/3 Bank is no longer the entertainment sponsor for Gallery Hop. In full disclosure, he reported that he is Chair of LexArts and received an email marketing a \$5,000 sponsorship opportunity to be the headline sponsor that includes logo on 50,000 pieces distributed throughout the season, signage, radio and online PR. He asked the council to consider if there is an opportunity for SPPS, Lexington's downtown arts school, to be the headline sponsor if funds could be raised.

Adjournment

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Adams, secretary (with assistance from Jeanne Miller)