



**SPPS Advisory Council Meeting Notes
January 26, 2015**

Present: Jeanne Miller, Candace James, Anna Martin, Bill Barr, Scottie Brockman, Stephen Clements, Peggy King, Jenny Parker, Nick Rice, Debbie Cambron, Dennis Bender, Dcn James Weathers, Debbie Spike-Pierce, Lisa Oeltgen-Peyton, Leslie Farmer, Sr. Clara Fehringer, Chris Thiel, Michelle Lineberry

Parents: Gordan Mullis, Connie Carr

Meeting began at 6:05 PM

Dcn James Weathers did a reading from 1Corinthians 12:4-11 with a reflection by Jeanne Miller about the importance of Catholic Schools Week and the theme of Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service.

Peggy King was introduced as a new member of the council. Julie Kelley stepped off the council so that the ECC could have staff representation.

ECC Report – Anna Martin

Ms. Martin proposed a change to the current vacation policy for the Little Angel families. Currently, families pay for 51 weeks of care and receive one week of vacation per enrollment year. During the week of Christmas, 60% of the families take their week of vacation. A majority of staff also request vacation during this time.

Proposal – All families would receive the week of Christmas as their yearly vacation week. The ECC would shut down for maintenance and teachers would have the opportunity to work in their rooms. Staff would have the option of using vacation days during this time for the days not worked.

Leslie Farmer said that this should be okay as long as this is communicated well advance to the parents.

Council reached consensus to move forward with this plan. Anna will start communicating the change to the parents.

Holiday Care for the second week of Christmas for students in Preschool-5th grade will continue.

Financials – Stephen Clements

Donations have increased as well as Tuition/Fees. The Tuition/Fees line item increase is due in part to increased enrollment and food service from Seton. Expenses that have increased are maintenance and utilities. Maintenance was due to the HVAC units at the Short Street Campus that needed to be replaced. The broken HVAC units may have been a factor in the increased utilities. Both are being watched carefully.

Overall, trends doing very well.

Refinancing of Note – Bill Barr

The bank note matured in December. The new note is a 10-year mortgage at 3.56% interest/ 25-year amortization.

The mortgage and A bond are guaranteed by the Diocese. B bonds will be used to pay down the policies of Endow the Future. The bonds are issued by Cornerstone.

Now, yearly debt service is \$1 million, which includes Julius Capital fees. How to cover this? Increase enrollment, tuition, and fundraising. Also being covered by selling of bonds even outside this marketplace.

Tuition increase – Jeanne Miller

Council has a commitment to a three-year outlook.

Suggestion #1

10% increase for 2015-16 for Preschool – 8th grade

0% increase for 2016-17 for Preschool – 8th grade

0% increase for 2017-18 for Preschool – 8th grade

This increase would put us over SEAS and CTK the first year then, probably, balance out by year 3.

Suggestion #2

6% increase for 2015-16 for Preschool – 8th grade

4% increase for 2016-17 for Preschool – 8th grade

4% increase for 2017-18 for Preschool – 8th grade

- Debbie Spike-Pierce suggested a larger increase for the non-Catholic rate and a smaller increase for In-parish and Catholic.
- Stephen Clements suggested showing families the true cost of educating a child, which is roughly \$11K per student, then show new tuition and parish support. This will clearly show the gap that we face as a school.
- Nick Rice suggested, that with this model, we could clearly show families the impact of increased enrollment and fundraising has on the bottom line.

- Debbie Cambron asked for the tuition numbers from other schools, including non-Catholic Christian schools.
- Leslie asked for historical information of other schools.
- Jeanne stated that, normally, if a student switches schools it is to public not another private school if tuition is a factor.
- Stephen will prepare a graphic representation of the numbers.
- Gordon Mullis proposed giving the parents option 1 or 2. If they go with 2 then they sign a three-year commitment.
- Bill stated that we have roughly 200 families. If 1 out of 4 brings in a new student, give that family a 10% discount.

Jeanne encouraged confidential email dialogue over the next few weeks.

Need to have a decision made by February 23rd meeting. Sr. Clara suggested scheduling an earlier meeting to discuss this. There will be a special meeting on February 9 at 6:00 PM. New rates will be announced following the 2/23 council meeting as well as at a Town Hall meeting in March.

Other business

Jeanne – Rick Wagner will oversee facilities at both campuses. Mrs. Miller also stated that we are on the verge of an offer to the new bookkeeper.

Anna – Reminded everyone to not forget to reserve seats for Mardi Gras, volunteer, or bring in auction items. This is the first year of online bidding.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM