

St. Catherine of Siena School Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2019 at 7pm

I. Call to Order

- A. Opening Prayer: Fr. Ryan.

II. Routine Matters

- A. In attendance: Fr. John Ryan, Sr. Antonella, Mrs. Mayi Apour, Mr. Nathan Au, Mrs. Patty Bandel, Mrs. Colleen Crespo, Mrs. Christine Engstrom, Mrs. Tammy Kiely, Mrs. Lucy Lozano, Mr. Michael Stallman.
- B. Review and Approval of January Meeting Minutes — Approved.

III. Information

- A. Pastor's Report: Fr. Ryan.

We're in between seasons; Lent is just around the corner, and the parish has a number of things going on. Each Friday will be Stations of the Cross (excepting one Friday, March 9th, when Bishop Christian will come for Confirmation.) Parishioner and historian Dr. Nikolaus Hohmann will offer three different lectures on Tuesday evenings. Fr Tuan is back in the parish, and continues making progress in his recovery. Fr. Gerry is still recovering at Atria in Burlingame. He has decreased mobility, but is medically ok. The church building and property is surviving the rains well. The Archbishop's Annual Appeal begins next Sunday. The assessment came down \$2,000 compared to last year. We have lost many of our more senior parishioners, as they become homebound or go to the Lord.
- B. Principal's Report Sr. Antonella.

The letters for the K acceptance will be mailed on Friday. We received more applications than last year (over fifty in all). Applicants for other grades also took their tests, the highest number we have ever had. The next step is correcting the tests and getting in touch with the families. Registration for new K applicants is due March 4th. Registration paperwork will go home for enrolled students next Wednesday, after which we can determine how many spaces in which grades are open for new students.

The Spell-a-Thon test is coming up next week. The teachers split up the list in four days. The fourth grade just received on Friday the words for the Burlingame Spelling Bee, and they will start preparing. We had the school dance last Friday with students from St. Roberts, St. Timothy, and OLA. The next and last dance is right before graduation. Next Tuesday night the Bonsai tech group and the Burlingame PD will give a presentation for school parents on online safety. Hopefully parents will attend because they find the topic important. Every parent should care how to guide the child at this point, and it is all in the parents' hands. Also, Arbor Day is coming up. There will be a presentation and students will be going to the location to plant trees. A tremendous number of students earned recognition for their essays in the Respect Life contest.

St. Antonella comments on why parents choose to apply to come to our school. They are impressed by the children's kindness and how they work in the classrooms. They are impressed by the students' behavior, how they act among themselves, and how they interact with adults. Some are parishioners and expect admission to "their" school. Many mentioned that heard of the school through word of mouth; or because they know someone who attends SC, A good number are applying for middle school.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Sports: Mrs. Engstrom.

The Boys sixth grade division 2 were tied for 1st place. Next week's game against St. Roberts determines the playoffs. The boys fourth grade team is in 1st place. The seventh-grade boys division 2 are in 2nd place. As an aside, teams move up or down a division for the subsequent grade based on their performance this year.

- B. The first cheerleading competition is this Friday at Notre Dame in Belmont. Track registration forms went home; St. Catherine competes in high jump, long jump, shot putt, and running events.

Mr. Au reports that the after-school basketball program has been very popular. There are 15 kindergarteners, and 70 students in grades one through three. The program moved to Mondays after school. There are only four coaches, which keeps them very busy. The level of play is surprisingly good, and even some kindergarteners shoot very well. The children look forward to it all week.

V. Old Business

- A. Catholic Schools Week: Tammy Kiely.
Open House was a nice event. Thanks go to Christina for the cookies. Parents of older students, too toured the school, and some returned last Saturday to take the test for the transferring student application. Open House was very informative for them because it's informal, and they get to see a little bit of everything.

VI. New Business

- A. Renaissance Star testing: Mrs. Bandel.
February 3rd was another Star Assessment. Faculty were reviewing the results last week and today. The students' scores jumped up again as a whole. Especially sixth grade saw a large increase in both reading and math, and everyone is moving in the right direction with continued gains. Notably there were no network or equipment problems (after the upgrades of last summer).
- B. Election Timeline: Mrs. Kiely.
On April 1st the candidacy papers will go out to school parents. They are due back April 5th at 3:30 pm. On April 9th, potential candidates will attend the board meeting to introduce themselves. Then on April 16th the biography for the ballots is due, and ballots go out May 15. They are due May 17, will be counted, and then on May 21st the new candidates are invited to the final board meeting of the year. This year there are four vacancies, one of which is a one-year term to replace a member who left mid-term.

VII. Comments from the Floor

- A. Drama: Christina.
Singing in the Rain Jr. is playing May 10, 11, 17, and 18. She is trying to get donations from local businesses, and comments that "Burlingame Ave. loves our school." Disney will donate tickets, but recipient organizations need to give a "give-back," so the drama students will be donating to CALL Primrose.
- B. Sr. Antonella reports Mr. Miller will not be returning to teach next year. He has accepted an offer to be principal at Holy Name School in Outer Sunset. He has taught at St. Catherine for 18 years. At Holy Name he replaces the out-going principal, who herself had been a SC graduate and a seventh-grade teacher here.
- C. The search will start for a cheerleading coach.
- D. Fr Ryan reminds us about the St. Patrick's Day dinner on March 9th. Details in the bulletin.

VIII. Adjournment.