

TCCES Board of Trustees Meeting 10-20-10 6:30 PM

Members Present: Mike Sullivan, Bob Andersen, Rob Michel, Fr. Richard Allen, Gary Elmer, Meg Brew, Marvin Daniels, Michelle Dejno, Sue Pawlowski, Stewart Koskinen, Howard Healy, Peter Schmitz, Lori Lepper

Members Absent: Fr. Paul Radetski, Fr. Mike Ingold, Sara Widener-Brightwell, John Fuller, Beth Nemecek

Guest: Ann Engelhard

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Bob Andersen. Opening Prayer: Fr. Allen

Approval of minutes/agenda approval –Meg made the motion to approve, second by Marvin Daniels. Motion carried.

President's Report: Mike Sullivan

Support for SMC

John & Dick Bergstrom recently visited SMC and made the commitment to provide funds for continued education for SMC staff as well as additional AP classes. SMC currently offers six different AP classes. The goal is to be able to offer up to 10 AP classes in the areas of science and social studies. John and Dick committed to providing \$20,000.00 per year for the next three years. SMC will also be able to expand the world language program next year by offering Mandarin Chinese. The program will start at Seton and will be funded four years. Chinese will be offered as a credit class at SMC starting next year. This program was announced during the recent 8th grade visit day, and at the SMC open house and information night on October 13th.

School Reports/Catholic Identity

At the all TCCES retreat in August, every staff member was presented with a copy of the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults. Since the retreat, the principals and teachers have used the catechism as a resource for religious instruction and as a source for prayers and meetings.

The elementary schools have begun the process of creating a skills-based component of religion for the report card. The elementary teams hope to complete this project by the end of the year. Our TCCES calendar theme is "The Names of Jesus", and as you enter the different buildings, you will see many references of this theme. As the different liturgical seasons of the year unfold, the schools through the teachers will address needs through service projects (morality and justice). Our Catholic faith is evident in all aspects of the elementary school environment.

Seton teachers and staff gather for prayer in a main hallway of the school each morning as a model for all students and visitors. Every classroom has a prayer center and crucifix

or cross. Seton has adopted the FROG theme (fully rely on God) as a way to nurture and teach the middle school students to accept and rely on God. There are FROG posters and small stuffed frogs all over the building. Each student received a FROG bracelet.

At SMC, the two school goals are:

- Deepening our understanding of Jesus and our faith through the study of the United States Catechism for Adults, including the next level of religious certification for all staff members.
- Utilizing the resource “A Well Built Faith” to provide a framework for faculty discussions of faith integration.

Service and current events regarding morality and social justice continue. The Teens for Life group is an action co-curricular focusing on life at all levels. Our ministry to youth through Catholic Heart Work Camp puts faith into action. Events such as the recent all-school service day lead our students to see the need for living out our Catholic faith in the day-to-day.

In the Theology Department, required Sophomore religion courses have been added to the curriculum. These courses, along with the Freshmen courses added last year, will continue to move us through the cycle of revamping all of the department courses with the new requirements over the next two years.

Enrollment

The low enrollment numbers at St. Mary Elementary continue to be a concern. Per Mr. Sullivan, we are about as lean with staff at SME as we can be. The board will continue to work with the advancement team for possible solutions for the low enrollment numbers at St. Mary Elementary.

A Kindergarten open house will be held in November. Mike Sullivan reported that the early high school registration offered to incoming parents worked well. Early registration may be expanded in 2011 to the transition grades. We need to continue to focus on student retention at the transition grades (Pre-K-K, 5-6, 8-9). In reviewing the exit surveys from parents of Pre-K students, one of the biggest reasons for not continuing in the TCCES system is the prospect of the daunting cost of Catholic education for many years.

Advancement Update: Ann Engelhard

A goal has been set to grow the link between advancement team and the TCCES board. The Advancement's outgoing message is to bring people and funds in to TCCES .

Ann reported that a reception for laptop program donors was held on Tuesday, 19th and was well received.

The Development Committee is meeting every 2 weeks. An annual fund goal has been established to increase the annual fund by several hundred gifts.

The TCCES Annual Fund Case Statement:

In the effort to continue providing quality Catholic education in our community, TCCES relies on the Annual Fund to support strong academic standards in a Catholic faith environment. Annual giving and sharing of time and talents by dedicated alumni, families and friends not only secures the future of the TCCES system, but more importantly, instills moral character and responsibility in our children. Students are prepared for a lifetime of success as they grow in Faith, Academics, and Service.

The TCCES Annual Fund will be used to bridge the gap between the actual cost of educating a student and the tuition paid. Bridging the gap between tuition paid and actual cost of education is essential in advancing the TCCES mission.

The giving levels have been renamed, as follows (TCCES Family of Giving):

Founder - \$5,000 and above
Visionary - \$3,000 to \$4,999
Leader - \$1,000 to \$2,999
Ambassador - \$250 - \$999
Friend – Up to \$249

The plan is for the advancement team to continue to connect with the donors and encourage them to “move to the next giving level”.

The *Adopt a Student* plan is the topic for their next committee meeting.

The goal for the printing of the annual report is November first. The report to be mailed on November 15th.

The importance of full board participation in the annual fund drive was emphasized by Ann and Mr. Sullivan.

Because many donors like to “give for a particular TCCES need”, Mike Sullivan will work with the TCCES principals to develop a list of the needs for the individual schools.

TCCES needs to continue to offer things that make us different from the public schools, such as the 1:1 laptop program, and the 4 year old kindergarten program. The Neenah public schools may offer 4K for the 2012-13, and if this happens, it will impact TCCES.

GGTS is offering the seminar *Leading to Make A Difference* on February 3rd and 4th of 2011. Board and/or Executive Committee members were invited to attend the conference.

Michelle Dejno reported that the school assessment of Seton has been completed. The data extrapolated from talking to students and teachers is being evaluated. Per Michelle, this was a “fabulous exercise” and a very good learning experience.

The St. Gabriel Brewfest fundraiser will be held on Friday, October 22 at Holiday Inn Riverwalk, Neenah.

Jumbo Gumbo will be held on Saturday, November 13th at Waverly Beach from 6:00 to 10:00. Planning is well under way and the packets will be sent home with students this week. Jumbo Gumbo ads will be placed in TCCES parish bulletins this coming weekend. The video was filmed at Ned's Deli in Neenah and turned out great!

Athletic Committee : Marvin Daniels

Marvin reported that the Fall athletics programs are finishing up their season at this time. Marvin will work with Mike Heideman to compile a report for the next board meeting.

Governance Committee: Rob Michel

Rob is in the process of collecting commitment forms. The governance committee met at the conclusion of the TCCES board meeting and will have a written report at the November TCCES board meeting.

Executive Committee: Bob Andersen

The focus of the Development Committee is on growing donor base each year and making sure to provide regular update back to TCCES board. The committee will make sure that some of money brought in by the annual fund and the adopt a student program is put aside for the future. Mike Sullivan and Ann Engelhard will continue to focus on St. Mary Elementary and will revisit St. Mary Elementary plan B for the future. The Technology Group will make a presentation to the board at the November meeting . If any board members have questions or agenda items for Technology, please send them to Mike prior to the November meeting.

Finance Committee: Howard Healy

Howard indicated that not enough committee members were present at their last meeting to develop a new list of goals. This list will be presented at the November meeting. The Finance Committee met with our bankers and it was a great meeting. The TCCES budget by campus report was given to all members for review. Howard emphasized that budgets are enrollment driven and shared the cost per student average for our TCCES schools.

At 8:15 PM, Howard Healy made the motion to adjourn, second by Fr. Allen. Motion carried.

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 17, 2010.