

St. Pius X Catholic High School
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2023

**Present: Aaron Parr, Dev Maguire, Sam Noyd, Mark Kelly, Andrew Leipold,
John Mount, James Flanagan, Valerie Maloof, Pat Esser, Sara Schmitt,
Madeleine Corcoran, Marsha Free**

**Absent: Sonya Williams, Michelle Schlueter, Maria Miller, Richard
Whitcomb**

Welcome and Prayer

- Intro of new members and guests
 - Sara Schmitt - 17 years at SPX, now the Director of Enrollment
 - Madeleine Corcoran - math department chair and here for observing for her leadership degree through Notre Dame
 - Valerie Maloof - 3 students graduated from SPX and a current parent, current alumni
 - Mark Kelly - former AD, alumni, 42 years served at SPX
 - John Mount - 4 students graduated from SPX and 2 currently enrolled
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- Approval of May 22, 2023 Minutes - motioned and approved
- Old business:
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- New business:
- Housekeeping - Council's contact information - update spreadsheet
 - Please let Marsha know of any changes
- Fall Successes - 2 updates in packet distributed
 - Annual Fund - 50% at goal - ahead and where we were last year
 - Thanked Dev for being Keynote speaker at Annual Major donor dinner
 - Give Like A Lion - new campaign for annual fund - highlighting alum
 - Ring the bells - over \$14M with \$100K donation last week
 - \$41K donation from the estate of Tom Novak

- Roof repairs over the chapel and breezeway
- New PA system being installed in the school
- New athletic building has been named by the students
- Over 300 nominations
- Narrowed down to the top 4
- Will be the St. Joan of Arc Athletic complex
- Will be called “The Arc”
- New floor installation in the Mark Kelly Gym
- A/C in the main gym
- We keep a running list of important items that need to be prioritized for repair
- May possibly look at a remodel/renovation of the Young Center
- The lease of the trailers on the field are not cost effective - these are used by visiting teams
- It may be more cost effective to build a simple structure with bathrooms, showers and lockers
- Construction update
 - Slated to be completed by April 1, 2024
 - Waiting to see if we can move in before the end of the school year
 - Will definitely use during the summer
 - Baseball/Softball complex -Seaver Field - adding a press box and updated bleachers; concession stand and restrooms behind the bleachers
 - Should be completed by February and hopefully ready for the start of baseball season
- Enrollment changes and Open House
 - Sara Schmitt - Director of Enrollment
 - Lion Leaders flows through the Admissions office
 - They are juniors and seniors
 - Shared the yield data from last year
 - Partner Schools - most of our students come from these schools
 - Holy Spirit - not an archdiocesan school, but have accepted more students from this school
 - Last year - more students accepted from Annunciation Day School
 - Increase from other schools - Arbor Montessori, etc.

- Category 2 students - increased enrollment - these are students who are catholic who do not attend a catholic school
- We were down by 14 applications last year, but only 3 down with acceptances
- January 29th is the deadline for applications for enrollment
- Sara feels that her job is to be our spokesperson, our salesperson
- Our Instagram account is one of our marketing tools
- Open House - November 5th
- Brian Gee is our speaker - class of 2010, played football at Cornell
- Very active with SPX alumni
- Evie Wilson - dancer at SPX who now works at Mercer in mental health and wants to come and speak
- We accept every single catholic that we possibly can, only 4 students from the Catholic schools were denied based on needs being too high and we could not serve those needs
- Future - we are extremely dependent on our feeder schools for enrollment, if their numbers are down, ours will be as well
- Christ the King is now an independent Catholic school and not part of the AoA Office of Catholic Schools
- There is a concern that they will now be courted by other expensive private schools
- We have an excellent relationship with the principal of CTK and the pastor
- St. Mary's Academy is now a product of Our Lady of Mercy and Our Lady of Victory - PreK through 12
- St. John the Evangelist used to be a feeder school for Our Lady of Mercy
- Holy Redeemer is also a feeder school for BT - geographically closer to BT
- Sara's goal for the class of 2028 - she would like to see 282 -285 freshmen class
- We opened with 279 freshmen
- Retention is a large goal as well
- Enrollment materials will also be produced in Spanish for parents who speak only Spanish
- Because of the current senior class - 246, a new freshmen class of 275 will still give us more students
- Financial aid applications are due 3/1/24;

- The enrollment office here at SPX has no representation on the financial aid committee and the applications go through FACTS
- The enrollment office has to be involved - they know the families better than any algorithm used by the software of FACT
- A larger endowment would definitely help for the scholarship purposes
- The enrollment of all of the AoA elementary schools is down overall
- We created a new video for marketing
- Shadow days are a huge selling factor
- We need someone who can help analyze the numbers for retention purposes
- This would give us an enrollment management team
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- Schedule Committee
 - We have formed a committee to potentially change our students' bell schedule
 - Monday through Thursday, 47 minute class schedule, 8 class periods a day
 - Fridays are late start days for assemblies, meetings, etc.
 - The committee met for the first time last week
 - Madeleine Corcoran is on the committee and reported on that meeting
 - There are a variety of teachers who are on the committee with different backgrounds and experiences with schedules
 - We need to have at least 30 minutes for lunch
 - This will be a 2 year process with the committee researching and determining what will work best for SPX
 - Teachers will have to be trained before the new schedule is implemented
 - This will also need to be advertised prior to the enrollment office promotes SPX
 - There will be collaboration between enrollment and academics
- President's Panel update
 - A student group of mostly seniors - 2 sophomores and 2 juniors are also on the panel
 - There are reps from all of the major groups in the school - NHS, Student Government, Campus Ministry, Student Athletic Advisory Committee, Diverse Student Union, Lion Leaders are all represented
 - The next topic of discussion will be school dances
 - Aaron wants the student government to have a bigger voice with administration

- We now have live announcements every Wednesday
- Aaron would like to invite student leadership to admin meetings
- Mark Kelly recommended having a student's voice on the schedule committee
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- Strategic Plan 2025-2030
 - With the completion of the capital campaign and building, we have signed on with a consultant to begin in February and March 2024
 - Michael Bratcher - consultant is whom we have hired
 - Aaron researched consulting firms versus an individual with other presidents from other Catholic Schools
 - He works with COGNIA and is a Catholic school product - principal, president, etc.
 - Aaron has given him data on SPX which he is reviewing-will take 45 days
 - He does not see this giving us a new capital campaign or major construction
 - Some of the members of the Advisory Council will be asked to be on a focus group
 - His services are free because he works with Cognia; we only cover his travel expenses
- New Website
 - This will happen this summer
 - The current website is not serving our needs
 - A committee has been formed; RFP's have been sent out
 - Final Site is one company that we are looking at
 - The plan is July 1 for roll out
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- Facilities Committee - need to start one
 - Actually need to resurrect it
 - We need for a council member to head this up to work with Blaise
 - Please let Aaron know if you are interested in working with Blaise so that he has support and professional feedback
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- Catholic Identity:
 - Campus Ministry Update -
 - They have programming every day during lunches

- Theology 101
- We hosted our first Theology 101 for parents last week
- We need to work better with our parents as they are the foundations for their students' faith
- "The Power of Prayer" was the presentation for the parents
- Teachers of freshmen and sophomores spoke about what they do in the classroom every day
- New campus minister Liam Byrne
- Serves as assistant to Susan Baker
- Ga Tech graduate; walk on football player; has connected with the freshmen students - assists with freshmen football
- Part time Chaplain Fr Robbie - from IHM
- Serves all of our all school Masses
- He is here every Friday
- He had a meeting with Bishop Konzen regarding SPX needs
- He feels that SPX needs more than he can currently give
- Bishop Konzen is an advocate for SPX having a full time Chaplain
- Father Rey Pineda says that we have a large class of priests coming in - 9 or 10
- Feedback from council -
 - Plans for the Donnellan Building?
 - The new building will house football, soccer, lacrosse, PE, wrestling and cheerleading
 - Cross Country and Track & Field will take over the locker rooms in Donnellan (these two are different seasons)
 - Would like to convert the weight room into an innovation and STEM classroom
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- Finance Council - update -
- Upcoming 7 a.m. meeting dates for 23-24 school year:
 - December 11, 2023
 - March 18, 2024
 - May 13, 2024

