

SAC Minutes  
October 8, 2008

Members Present

Father Ed	Arlene Izquierdo
Mrs. Nydia Claudio	Albert Rosales
Mrs. Linda Trethewey	Heather Rusk
Tony Bernardini	Darlene Santis
Kathy Elgut	Laura Tubio
	Patricia Sheinfeld

Mission Statement

*St. Bonaventure School is a Christ centered community that fosters Christ's gospel message of peace, love, service to others and fellowship.*

- I. Father Ed opened the meeting with a prayer. He, then, led the SAC members on a tour of the construction site for the sports/parish activities cover. The efforts of past council meetings and the support of a unified St. Bonaventure community were recognized. Tony Bernardini, SAC chairman, continued the meeting with introductions of all the members for the new school year. Mrs. Claudio made sure that all SAC members received a copy of the SAC bylaws. Bylaws help guide members on the topics of discussion at the council meetings. Tony asked for a motion to pass the September minutes. The motion passed and all members voted their approval of the minutes.
- II. Town Hall Meeting: Tony suggested that future town hall meetings be conducted as part of the open house at the beginning of the school year. This would help parents receive the information at a more convenient time and hence increase attendance. Mrs. Claudio agreed that the meeting should be held at a more convenient time. She said she would also look into having it at a different time within the school calendar. Family evaluations of the school were handed out at the Town Hall Meeting last year. This year they will go out at a different time. The accreditation team will decide the date and evaluation format based on the school goals. Parents should look at these evaluations as another important way to offer the school feedback.
- III. Curriculum questions: Parents at the Town Hall Meeting asked a member about the curriculum for Music, Art and Spanish. They wanted to know what the goals were in each of these subjects so that they could guide their children in mastering them. Mrs. Claudio said that a copy of the curriculum for all subjects is kept in the front office. Parents can come in and look at these at any time. She will speak to the teachers of the subjects mentioned about posting general goals for these subjects on their class pages.

IV. Web Site:

A. Members noted that feedback from parents is positive regarding the information available on the web site especially regarding student grades. One member suggested that a description of the grading for projects be added on to the grading reports. She is aware that some projects count as 4 grades but are posted as one. Mrs. Claudio said she would look into this.

B. Another member noted some security concerns regarding sporting events listed on the web site .These security issues will be addressed and more discussion may follow at the next SAC meeting.

C. Members also considered adding a suggestion box to the SAC page so that parents ,who do not have access to SAC members, can post questions.

D. It was noted that service hours can now be posted online. There will be a way to monitor school specific volunteer hours at the end of the school year.

E. Concerns regarding text books online were also addressed. Feedback from the “Breakfast with Administration” sessions (2007-08 school year) indicated parent support for text books online. Parents cited concerns over heavy backpacks, etc. However, it was noted, this year, that some parents prefer the textbook in hand and hence like both options available. Administration will try to offer the best option for all. More text books will be purchased. Providing a link to the text book via the school web site was also suggested by parents and will be considered.

F. A member suggested that club descriptions be added to the web site as many parents are not aware of all the clubs offered by the school. Similarly, the new electives offered in the middle school could be described and added to the web site.

- V. Parent Volunteer requirements: The fingerprinting information was understood by parents. Some, however, were unable to attend the Virtus training session which was offered as a mandatory requirement for parent volunteers. Because this is a new program mandated by the Archdioceses of Miami, members suggested that more than one training session should be offered. Mrs. Claudio said that she will look into another date and offer the training again. She also underlined the fact that parents should be made aware that this is a one time training program. Parents receive and should keep the certificate of participation given at this training session. It is valid for life.
- VI. Accelerated Reader Program: Mrs. Trethewey reported that feedback from the accelerated reader representative was positive. Participation by students is high and supported enthusiastically by the teachers.
- VII. Positive Feedback on Academics from Alumnae: Two members noted that their high school freshmen have given them unsolicited feedback concerning their learning at St. Bonaventure and how it has helped them do well in courses at St. Thomas of Aquinas High School. Several teachers were cited for their efforts. Subsequently, one of the members suggested posting this type of encouraging information so that parents of younger children were made aware of this encouraging feedback. Members suggested giving out this news via the school newspaper, the web site or a new alumnae link which could be added to the web site. All will be considered.
- VIII. Environmental Stewardship: Just as the school now supports technology in a way it never did before, the school is also supporting efforts to help students understand environmental stewardship. Regarding this effort, a member complimented the internal follow up given by the new teacher advisor for this club. Recently, club members connected with others. Students from Student Council, girl scouts and the club mentioned worked together to decorate and place paper recycling bins in all teacher classrooms. This was cited as an example of “team work” education in action. Past SAC council members also contributed their ideas and support for this type of education. News of this positive contribution to the school community could be placed on the web site as well as the school newsletter or could be summarized at the end of the school year on the club page.

- IX. School Mass: Members reported that parents who receive the Eucharist at the front of the church were confused when teachers recently prevented them from doing this. All parties involved understand the importance of teaching reverence at church. Members agreed that because this was a church issue, Father Ed should mediate between the parties involved. Father Ed asked the PRO president to obtain feedback from the parents who are concerned so that he could help resolve this issue.
- X. Members agreed to change the November meeting date from Nov. 5 to Nov. 12 due to the Saint Bonaventure festival.

(Respectfully submitted by Darlene Santis, [dcssantis@aol.com](mailto:dcssantis@aol.com))

Future meeting dates are Nov. 12, Dec. 10, Jan. 14, Feb. 11, March 11, April 22, May 13.