

School Advisory Committee Meeting (August 24th)

In Attendance: Father Jay, Dr. Wardell, Jennifer Bogan, April Lavoie, Goretti Joaquim, Gail Furtado, Noreen Pingley, Greg O'Donnell, Minty Farrissey, Tommy L., Bob M., Fran LaSalle and Doug H.

Opening prayer at 6:34

Greg Dutra and Ralph Strollo with Reflex Energy Solutions opened the meeting with a discussion about solar panels. Ralph works with Roger who presented to us earlier this year. Because we are a non profit organization, we cannot take care of the tax incentives. Dr. Wardell had a copy of the Rhode Island Catholic which had a cover story about a school in RI that is now solar powered. They received 200k in grant money to help with the costs. We have an issue with time because the tax incentives-6 year depreciative, and a 30% tax incentive, will end Dec. 31st 2016. If this is something we are going to want to do we need to move on it quickly. There are aspects of the price that are negotiable but it is still a tremendous financial investment. A 167kw system will cost us 500k. If we could buy a system then we could make between 90 and 125k by selling our excess to National Grid. Solar renewal energy credits (SREC).

Father followed up with the pros and cons of investing in this program. If we go with the bigger system, we would have more energy to sell and could have the system paid off in 5 years. The discussion is do we lease or own the system? Father will get an appointment with the diocese to discuss our options. Goretti suggested that we speak with Roger to try and negotiate a better price per kw. Goretti will reach out to Roger. Bob will put together a brief proposal on the different options we are considering. He will look to Tommy L. and Greg to take a look at his information before he gets it to Father. We should also look into the electrical bills for the church and St. Stan's and the diocesan building. Bob will have this proposal to Father before the next meeting.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Father continued with the election process and a discussion about what a wonderful job Mr. Sears has done this summer preparing the school for the beginning of the school year.

4 positions need to be filled...3 full terms (3 years) and 1 (1year) term. Eight people applied and 3 people specified "only if needed". Out of the 5 applicants remaining, Fran is reapplying; Paula Kelly is a parishioner/teacher; Owen Marshall, alumni of HNS and Bishop Connolly; Wayne Swenson, grandparent of 2 students; Karen Sullivan, not a parishioner but attends mass at HN often. Dr. Wardell made up a ballot. The top three names will get the 3 year terms and the fourth will take the one year term.

Paula, Fran, Owen for 3 year terms and Wayne for 1 year.

Dr. Wardell proceeded with her update. Today was the faculty meeting! Our new first grade teacher is an alumni of HNS and Winnie Enos is now our Resource Teacher. We also hired a new Language Arts teacher, Lynn Weldon. She has expertise in Google and Sadlier (publishers) and will help the school utilize that in various ways at the school. The new alignment fits so much better. Our school enrollment is 211 which is down but is a direct result of the PreK program only having 13 enrolled. The class officers will now present their election speech to the whole middle school.

Fran continued with an idea she had for the school...she trapped Noreen and decided to put together an idea that each teacher will put together a list of supplies that they need and would like to have. This gives parishioners an opportunity to contribute to specific needs of the school and in turn will hear back on how their contribution is used and how it impacts the students.

Next meeting will be on Monday, October 19th 6:30 in the computer room.

Father ended with a closing prayer at 7:56.