

AMDCS Consultative Board Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 8, 2010
St. Charles School, San Francisco

Attending:

Martha Adriasola, Dennis Aguirre, Br. Douglas Draper, Arlene Fife, Robert Dalton, Rev. Stephen Howell, Abram Jackson, Monica May, Greg Myall, Rev. Thomas O'Neill, Janet Shapiro

Guests:

Daniel Dean, Andi Gualco

Absent:

Rev. Arturo Albano, Margaret Keller, Richard Lee, Ruben Nuñez

At 5:30 pm, Arlene Fife welcomed the board. Greg Myall led the board in an opening prayer and reflection.

At 5:35 pm, the Board reviewed the September 13, 2010 meeting minutes, which were approved after following standard motions.

At 5:38 pm, the Board reviewed the November 8, 2010 agenda, which was approved after following standard motions.

At 5:40 pm Grant Writer Robert Dalton distributed the Grant and Gift Report and discussed it with the board.

We have two foundation grants pending. Robert is waiting to hear from Finance. He has been contacting foundations, but many of them are waiting for an uptick in the stock market before they will be interested in gifting money to new organizations. Some foundations are more optimistic about the economy and are more interested in looking at the Alliance.

The Subcommittee meeting for researching grants resulted in a list of potential contacts (distributed).

At 5:44 pm Arlene thanked Rob for his work. There was a question about the distribution of funds, which Rob answered.

At 5:46 pm the Board viewed *Building Better Boards*, a video by the NCEA.

At 6:05, the Board discussed the video. Maureen Huntington described the various functions of the different ASF Boards.

At 6:25 pm, the Board broke for dinner.

At 6:53 pm, the Board reconvened. The Finance and Marketing committees had a brief meeting.

At 7:20 pm, the Advisory Boards and Research Grants Committees had a brief meeting.

At 7:50 pm, each committee gave a report on what they had discussed. Speaking for Finance, Greg Myall said that after reviewing the budget, there will be a projected aggregate \$500k deficit. There will be no Archdiocesan financial commitment as compared with previous years. Current tuition receivables may possibly offset the deficit.

There has been no update from Richard. The committee is very concerned about the financial state of the schools.

Maureen Huntington said that Richard has been working on cash flow budgets. This will give a better sense of real expenses and income. It is possible that things are worse than projected.

The Board discussed the dire financial conditions and next steps. It was suggested that due to the great interest in preschools, this might be a way for schools to increase their enrollment, but for some schools this would not be financially viable.

At 7:35 pm, Monica May reported for the Marketing (websites) committee. Monica expressed her dismay at the Finance Committee's report, and did not wish to spend time reporting on her committee's discussion about the schools' websites, but rather to discuss possibilities of transforming schools in hopes of keeping them afloat. This led to a discussion about the possibility of school closures – how it would be determined, the timeline, and actions the AMDCS Board can take to support schools that will continue to be viable.

At 8:24 pm Dennis Aguirre reported for the Advisory Boards Committee. They discussed how to assist the schools that will continue to be viable with the establishment of their school boards.

At 8:25 pm Robert Dalton reported for the Research Grants Committee (in lieu of Margaret Keller). The committee discussed the Foundation Grant List distributed by Rob Dalton earlier in the evening. They brainstormed about how the Board should go about fundraising and how to be more involved with introducing potential financial contributors to the Alliance.

At 8:26 pm Superintendent Maureen Huntington gave her report. At the November 5th Strategic Plan Discussion meeting at OLM, they discussed the new monitoring of schools in difficult straits in the interest of keeping them from closing. For some schools, this is too late, but nine have been identified that are struggling but can still be turned around. Some of these schools were self-identified and some were approached. The meeting lasted two hours and went well.

Fr. Howell mentioned that it gave an opportunity for people to share, and it did get off-topic. There were a lot of questions about the AMDCS and how it worked. There was a lot of support for the Alliance, and a lot of suggestions. Janet Shapiro asked if other schools could join the Alliance. Maureen responded that they could, but it would be hard for them to catch up educationally – the Alliance schools have made an enormous amount of progress. It would be better for the schools to start a new group. There is a cluster that could work and support each other.

At 8:37 pm, the Board adjourned.