

**SAINT IGNATIUS COLLEGE PREP**  
**Parents' Organization**  
**Minutes of General Meeting**  
**October 16, 2007**

**Meeting called to order** by Co-Presidents Gini Marziani and Greg Wrobel at 7:00 p.m.

**Meeting opened** with Prayer of Generosity led by school President Fr. Paulson.

**Auction Volunteer Sign-Up**

Gini Marziani requested that parents volunteer to help with the school's annual Auction fund-raising event in March 2008. Clip boards were circulated and approximately 50 parents signed up to help. Kathy Bliss, immediate past president of the Parents' Organization and an Auction Co-Chair, was on hand to answer questions about volunteer work on the Auction.

**Program on Student Life Topics**

Dr. Karl introduced members of the staff present, including assistant principals, deans, and the chair of the school's Dress Code Committee.

Dr. Karl reported on aspects of "Student Life" being received well by the students, including "Juke Jug" that is used to enforce the school dance policy. Most of the students cooperated well and had a lot of fun at the homecoming dance.

Lanyards were distributed to students this week; student lanyards are maroon and faculty/administration lanyards are gold. The lanyards are attached to a plastic holder for the student's Photo ID; the other side can be used to hold another card such as the student's Examen Card. Students must wear the lanyard with photo ID visible on their neck while at school, and the bar code on the Photo ID activates locks to gain entry to the school. The school now will be locked at all times as a safety precaution.

The school is considering whether to do more to educate parents and students about problems with drug and alcohol use, and the school's policies on these matters, due to the levels of self-reported usage on anonymous student surveys.

The main topic of the program was the school's ongoing review of student dress code policies. Dr. Karl noted that the school never has had a uniform policy, but the topic is under review now as part of the school's policy on Preferential Option for the Poor. One area of concern is the disparity in economic means among students, the manner in which this may be reflected in clothing worn to school, and how this may affect the social environment and relationships among students.

Dr. Karl explained that the Chicago Province of the Jesuit order, as part of its role as the religious sponsor of our school, every five years requires the school to conduct an

internal self-study of the school's Jesuit and Catholic identity under the supervision of the Board of Trustees. This is our form of sponsorship "accreditation" as a Jesuit high school. In light of its mission, each Jesuit school is free in any given five-year review cycle to determine the areas of school life and topics on which to focus and how to conduct the study, according to what would be most helpful to the school at that time. This self-study is then shared during an on-site visit to the school with a visiting team of professionals from other Jesuit schools (usually a president, principal and a rector/superior from other Jesuit high school communities, hence the acronym "PPR review").

In the Fall of 2006, Saint Ignatius selected four areas of focus for the PPR review that took place during the 2006-07 school year, including Retreat, Service, Adult Faith Development, and Preferential Option for The Poor. The latter topic relates in part to school dress code policies.

Dr. Karl emphasized that the school has no pre-determined plan either to change the dress code or keep it the same. Rather, the school community is engaging in dialogue on this topic as a continuation of the PPR review process.

Dr. Karl described student focus group discussions over the past few weeks on the school's current dress code and the option of a school uniform. Dr. Karl asked parents to engage in similar focus group discussions during the meeting, and parents at each table discussed the benefits and detriments of the current dress code versus a school uniform that all students must wear.

One parent at each table recorded comments in writing. After the table discussions, parents reported selected points to the entire group, and school staff collected the written comments for submission to the Chair of the school's dress code committee.

Dr. Karl then asked all parents to place themselves along a wall in the Dining Hall, grouped in numbers from one to ten, with one strongly favoring the current dress code and ten strongly favoring a school uniform policy. The results were tallied, with approximately 60-65 percent in the 1-5 range (i.e., strongly or somewhat in favor of the current dress code policy), and 35-40 percent in the 6-10 range (i.e., strongly or somewhat in favor of a uniform policy). The largest group was at one (strongly favoring the current dress code) and the next largest was at ten (strongly favoring a uniform policy). Dr. Karl advised that these results are similar to those expressed in student focus groups.

Dr. Karl advised that parent and student input would be submitted to the school's Dress Code Committee, and that parents will be kept informed of further developments as dialogue on this topic progresses. Whatever is decided will apply both to girls and boys, and not only to one group of students.

## **Queries/Concerns**

Face Book/My Space. Parents should know what is on student pages. If a student posts something harmful and it gets back to school, the school must follow up and the consequences in the Handbook will apply.

Home Room Announcements. They are posted on EdLine, which is password protected, but not on public portions of the school website, due to safety and security concerns with public access to some of the information reported.

Freshman/Sophomore Mass. November 4, 2007, 1 PM, Holy Family Church.

Next General Meeting. November 13, 2007, 7 PM, Cuneo Chapel.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Frith, Recording Secretary