

St. Francis Parent Meeting 7-6-10  
Minutes

1. Meeting began with an opening prayer led by Father Anthony
2. Laurie acknowledged staff; ask to hold questions until the end of meeting; let parents know that the minutes from this meeting, as well as all questions and answers will be emailed to all parents
3. Father Anthony reviewed the following timeline of events:
  - Found an inconclusive document from 1987 that stated the school was unsafe
  - February 2010: indepth evaluation of building took place (initial reports looked good)
  - End of May; final report received
  - June 3; first meeting to discuss the findings of the report;  
In attendance were: Fr A, Laurie, Parish council members, Joe Prassa, Diocese building experts, Finance Officer, structural engineers. This was when we first heard the details of the structural report from experts
  - June 16; met with CSD superintendent Dom Puglisi, Diocesan Legal counsel Steve Green, Diocesan Finance Officer Tom McNamara, and Public Relations contact Kevin Eckery
  - June 22; met in Bishop's office with Bishop Soto; Fr A, Fr. Oscar, Laurie, Dom, Tom,
  - June 24; met at All Hallows Parish with Father Oscar and members of his parish finance council, Fr A, Rich, Dom, Tom, Laurie
  - Sat., June 26<sup>th</sup>, Fr A and Laurie met with staff to tell what we knew so far
  - June 28; Father Oscar met with his parish council and finance council
  - June 29; Met at Diocesan Pastoral Center with Fr Oscar, All Hallows Finance council, Tom, Monsignor Jim Murphy, Fr A, Laurie
  - June 30; Bishop Soto met with Fr Oscar
  - June 30; 4:00pm finalized location; got the "green light"
  - July 1<sup>st</sup> (next morning) mailed letters to parents
  - July 2<sup>nd</sup>; email blast
4. Father Anthony gave details of seismic report findings; if you would like to read the report, contact us and we will arrange it
5. 2 phases to this;  
Phase 1 August 24<sup>th</sup> (**Laurie**)  
Phase 2 Discernment process (**Father**)
6. Phase 1; Laurie spoke about the priority right now being getting everything ready for August 24<sup>th</sup> and briefly spoke of the following:
  - Building/safety/neighborhood (many of staff live in the area)
  - Currently: movers, phone/ intercom; technology, security (fence) being coordinated

- Parent support/help with packing/unpacking work parties, cleaning parties, etc will be needed
- Open House for children in August
- Come Aug 24<sup>th</sup>, everything that you love about who we are as a school will continue

The following were questions and answers from parents regarding **Phase 1 (opening school on Aug 24<sup>th</sup> at the new school location)**

1. How long will we be there? Two years for sure, with possibly two more, at \$5000 a month rent
2. How big is the school? Capacity? The classrooms are much larger than what we have now and could hold 40-45 students, however, we are committed to our current lower teacher to student ratio.
3. Is there a backup plan if population declines? We are committed to being open for the next two years, regardless of population
4. What is the address of the new school? 5700 13<sup>th</sup> Ave
5. Could it become our permanent location? That is not our intent or desire; it will be part of the discernment process and will involve both parishes and our parents
6. Has St. Francis Church been retrofitted? Yes, in 1994
7. Could we extend drop off and pick-up times? We will look into various options and want to make this as convenient for parents as possible
8. How secure is the campus? The prior principal never had any issues regarding safety. Currently, there are schoolyard cameras, fences. Mrs. Power is currently meeting with fencing contractors to make sure the fence is as safe as possible. The school sits on 13<sup>th</sup> Ave which is a very quiet residential neighborhood. Many of our staff and families live in the area
9. Can we use the school for fundraisers? Yes, however we will need to “rent” the gym on Saturdays
10. Is someone coordinating carpooling? Yes, Jill Rice, Parent Club President
11. Will we still have hot lunch, computers, library, etc? Yes, all programs will continue
12. Could St Francis be turned over to the diocese and become a diocesan school instead of a parish school? Possibly, it could. At this time that has not been discussed
13. Is the staff all returning? Yes and are very committed to maintain the excellence and traditions of our school
14. Is the school we are moving to seismically safe? It has not been retrofitted. It was built to code in the 1950s, has rebar in the walls, and is one story
15. Have we considered busing with a transportation charge? Mrs. Power will look into this
16. How many students have we lost? None, as of the meeting
17. Will the diocese speak to us about their personal support of us as a school? Father Anthony spoke of the great support, compassion, availability,

cooperativeness, and help from the diocese. The diocese has no money to give at this time

18. Can kids help get the school ready? We will need all parent help, however, to include kids in a work party would probably turn into chaos
19. What can parents do to help? We will be emailing updates with times and dates for packing, moving, unpacking, cleaning, etc.
20. Do we need boxes? Due to the huge number we need, and in order to be organized, we will get from a local moving company
21. Will fundraising be earmarked differently? Fundraising, as in the past, will be used for student needs, learning, and enhancements
22. Are we really going to be able to open on August 24<sup>th</sup>? Yes, definitely, 8am. with school Mass at 8:30

### Phase 2 Questions **“What Next, The Discernment Process?”**

Many questions were asked about the future of our current building. The following questions were asked in a variety of ways:

1. Do we have a Plan B? Currently, our focus and energies are on getting school ready for the children on Aug 24<sup>th</sup> at our new location
2. What next? Parish council meets on July 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss this issue for the first time. Father Anthony made it clear that all parents, as stakeholders of the school, will be included in future discussions this Fall. Over the next year all stakeholders will be considering all options in order to make a plan.
3. What is the Bishop’s Strategic Plan for Catholic schools? It can be found on the diocesan website at [diocese-sacramento.org](http://diocese-sacramento.org) under “news”

The overwhelming support and unity from parents was affectionately expressed throughout the meeting. The parents voiced their commitment to continuing our loving community in our new location. Parents will be updated, as necessary, through email or letter.