



We Are Better Together!

*Transition News & Notes - Vol. I
January 29, 2010*



Parent Meetings – January 24, 2010

We want to thank everyone for coming to the first set of parent meetings at Precious Blood Catholic Church. This newsletter is a first in a series of newsletters to keep you informed as we progress toward the consolidation of our new school.

The parent meetings started with prayer. Afterward, Father Bill gave a brief overview of the history that brought Precious Blood and St. Rita Schools to work together. Father Bill then created small groups to hold a discussion focusing on two areas. Below are the notes from these groups.

The next parent meetings will take place January 31st for those who could not attend this past meeting. We will add to this list as we continue our next meetings. Our goal is to use these questions to guide our work as we begin the task ahead of us.

Work groups will be formed in the next week in the areas of faith, academics, finance/facilities, human resources, communication/marketing, and support for families, students and teachers. These work groups will under take some of the tasks required to open our new school. We will communicate through a weekly newsletter to keep everyone up to date on progress. If you would like to be part of one of our work groups please contact Veronica Murphy (vmurphy@stritadayton.org) or Dan Mecoli (dmecoli@preciousbloodschool.org).

Statements recorded below come from individuals and may or may not reflect the consensus of the group.

Small Group Notes:

1) What are the benefits of bringing our two schools together by consolidating?

Benefits:

- Bringing the best talents from each school-teachers, etc...
- Grow enrollment
- Establish ourselves as the best school in Northwest Dayton
- Best curriculum choices
- Hopefully to be sustainable for the future
- To keep a Catholic school in Northwest Dayton
- To get the best resources from both schools
- Stronger academic program
- Stabilize the Catholic population
- Assumed financial comforts
- Combine strengths of both schools
- Catholic Education into the future for area
- More resources by working together
- Larger geographic area to draw from in the future
- More community development
- All day Kindergarten
- Bring together the Catholic community in our area, unity
- Better quality of education
- Stronger sports program
- Combining traditions, activities, culture-enhanced programs
- Comfort/safety of St. Rita students to have a place to go to school

2) *What are the questions and concerns of consolidating?*

Questions:

- Do students get the parishioner rate if they attend another Catholic Church other than Precious Blood and St. Rita?
- Will child/teacher ratio increase because of the transition?
- Will we have to buy new uniforms? Will they be monogrammed?
- Will there be an opportunity for a social activity before school starts in the fall?
- How many participate in the before and after school care program?
- Will Kindergarten be all day?
- Will the bell times change?
- Why change the name? Why erase the identity of both schools by changing the name?
- How is the new name going to be decided?
- When are staff decisions supposed to be made?
- Will Spanish class be offered?
- What are opportunities for students of both schools to meet?
- How do we build a sense of community between the two parishes?
- When will staffing be decided?
- Will Dan Mecoli be at school at all (transition) next school year?
- Will there be an offer to St. Paul parishioners to get a reduced tuition rate to attend the new school?
- Any screening process in place for St. Rita students?
- Please have group activities for parents and children to meet. Should we involve the youth group leader and Deacon Chuck to help with activities?
- What curriculum will be used?
- How many male teachers?
- What is the STEP program?
- Are testing and assessment instruments the same?
- What are the teachers' names?

Concerns:

- Class size-teacher/student ratio
- Loss of identity
- Teacher uncertainty
- Affordability
- Are there enough rooms?
- Why some teachers left St. Rita?
- Children's safety in regards to the Greyhound station proximity to school.
- Will all teachers come to the Precious Blood campus?
- The name -- is there a compromise like the same name and a new mascot?
- Uniform- transition year
- St. Rita students feel more like guests than students
- The entire parish needs to be involved, some are ignorant of this situation
- Newness of idea to consolidation, series of bombs dropped on Precious Blood on paper and not in person
- Percentage of Catholic students and the need to maintain Catholic students
- Who will be accepted into the new school? Anyone? Everyone?
- Keeping moral value system in place
- Leadership unknown
- Changing the name is a big concern
- Larger class size = less attention
- Cliques
- Why have 2 meetings for Catholic/Non Catholic parents? We need unity. Please do not separate.
- Weekly newsletter like the "What's Happening"
- Will it be "us versus them"?
- Precious Blood had this issue thrown at them and no voice in the decision.
- Slowness of the process. We need constant communication whether decisions are made or not.
- Refundable \$100 if parents change mind on enrollment.
- Traffic to and from school