

Governance

Historical Background

Our Lady of Victories School has been in existence since 1889. The school originally was staffed by the Franciscan Sisters of Philadelphia and later by the Sisters of Mercy and was owned by the Parish of Our Lady of Victories. Later on in the sixties lay educators became part of the staff. At the present time, the faculty consists mainly of lay educators and one Sister of Mercy. The administrator of the school had always been a religious from the Sisters of Mercy until 1989 when the first lay administrator was appointed. From that time on the administrators have all been lay personnel. The school continues to be owned by the Parish. A School Advisory Council was created in the spring of 2008.

Current Governance

The classification of the school is Diocesan. This S.A.C. is a consultative council. Member qualifications are as follows: 1. Is actively committed to Catholic Schools. 2. Believes in furthering the mission of Catholic schools in the future. 3. Has the ability to work with others effectively in reaching a consensus. 4. Ability and willingness to make a substantial time commitment to the work of the council. 5. Be committed to Catholic education provided by Catholic schools. 6. Expertise in areas that would be beneficial to the council's work.

The Pastor and Principal recommended candidates for the Executive Committee of the School Advisory Council. The candidate's resume and a brief narrative describing why they would be good executive board members were submitted to the Executive Director of Education, and were appointed by the Bishop. The rest of the members of the S.A.C. were chosen by Father Michael Krull and Mrs. Esemplare. Members were chosen from the parish and school communities who would be able to address the needs of the school.

The members serve for a three year term with the possibility of serving a second consecutive term. After members serve two consecutive terms, they can be reappointed to the Council after a lapse of at least one year.

Committees fall into the following areas: Executive; Finance; Development/Marketing; Facilities; Curriculum; Technology; Governance; Enrollment; School in the Community. The Executive Committee is made up of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Pastor and Principal. The responsibilities of this committee are: 1 To expedite business between meetings. 2. Act on behalf of the Council in emergency situations. 3. Hold meetings to discuss issues to be brought before the entire Council but doesn't make decisions on these issues. 4. Clarify issues before they are presented to the entire Council. 5. Establish the agenda for each meeting and mail it ten days prior to Council members. 6. Keep minutes of the minutes and submit to each member.

***Since the submission of the Strategic Plan, we have had a change in Governance. Father Thomas Ryan has been assigned as our new Pastor.**

Policy Process

Since the inception of the S.A.C. no new policies have been implemented. The S.A.C. has been busy working towards the development of a Strategic Plan. While working on this plan, the Council has come across areas that need to have specific policies. After the Strategic Plan has been finalized, the work on specific policies will begin.

The school follows the Diocesan Policy with regard to fingerprinting, background checks, the Protecting God's Children Program and age appropriate personal safety training for children.

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Areas of Concern

At Our Lady of Victories our most pressing and major concern is the recognition that our school is a parish ministry and requires total support.

Success in attaining aggressive fund raising goals of \$85,000 committed to in our 2009-2010 budget.

Achieving increased enrollment.

Availability of the necessary funding to accommodate all of the requirements for a first class education.

Goal

Update and institute new policies to meet today's and future requirements in order to insure the viability of the school.

Objective

Successful implementation and completion of our strategic plan.

Action Plan

Conduct ongoing review of each committee's strategic plan, including objectives, action plan and timelines for completion.

Process For Council Evaluation

Review, revise, update and substitute where necessary our top priorities within the Strategic Plan.

Issue quarterly a status report of all of our goals and objectives to the Pastor, Parents, and Parish.