

## Enrollment Task Force Meeting Notes

Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008

Reminder of our goals, as a task force:

- Make recommendations regarding
  - o Configuration of the school
  - o Admissions process
- Understand what made families leave the school
  - o Top reasons
  - o Of the actionable reasons, what do we recommend?
- Other things to consider as it applies to enrollment and recruitment
  - o Retention: both parents and children as ambassadors
  - o Retention: potential of adding a Guidance Counselor to work with families
  - o Recruitment: improving the Middle School section of the website to appeal to families that crave what the school offers

	<b>Top reasons that families left (not in priority order):</b>	<b>Actionable?</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1.	Family Relocation	No	
2.	Social		
	- Small grade sizes	To some degree	Communication re: benefits
	- We have fewer sports	Potentially	Town programs are excellent; if we want to add more, need more parental resources
3.	Attending district school to prepare for FHS	To some degree	Communication re: past students' ability to integrate, and why a smaller community is better prep for a big one
4.	Neighborhood kids attend district schools	To some degree	Communication re: the benefits, like field trips, language programs, social and cultural programs, assemblies, public speaking, etc.
5.	Private school which leads to high school	To some degree	Please see above, including the potential to add more academically challenging Pre-AP course instruction
6.	Facilities	Yes	Largely middle school
	- Lockers for middle school	Investigating	
	- insufficient Gym space	Investigating	Potential for gym building in courtyard space
	- No hot lunches	Investigating	Need to review report that Cindy Sarapas and Kate Edgar put together

Suggestions regarding the BFCCPS.org website

- Mission information at equal footing with academics, including focus on blending MA Frameworks with the Core Knowledge Curriculum to achieve our goals.
- Focus on the middle school, and compelling programs focused on those grades
  - o Nature's Classroom for 6<sup>th</sup> grade
  - o Team building field trips
  - o 2 days/week of Physical Education
- Additional programs that we support
  - o Many field trips throughout the year
  - o In-school cultural assemblies
  - o Destination Imagination

- FIRST Lego League Robotics teams
- Rube Goldberg teams
- Golf
- Intramural Soccer
- Basketball
- Drama
- Fine arts program, including music program
- Public speaking as a part of school time

Additional issues that were discussed

- Upper grade levels, kid-driven decisions need to be addressed
- 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade defections are largely faculty driven
- Look to parents to alumni to help address anxieties
- What we're improving:
  - Math program is amazing
  - Teacher happiness has improved enormously
  - Lease issue/facility is an issue

Next Steps:

- Michele to draft a job description for Guidance Counselor
- Put admission-related items on next board meeting agenda
- Several faculty members are interested in participating ( I spoke w/Mme. Trotin and she recommended that I contact Ms. Sharistanian.
- We need to organize an assembly in school w/grades 5-8
  - Include alumni kids
  - Give kids the ability to voice questions/concerns
- Make recommendation to BoT
  - Possibility of increasing class size of some classes?
    - Need documentation of class size locally
    - Deb Schwab to send class size info
- Next meeting, Feb 4<sup>th</sup>
-