

## **Professional Development Meeting**

May 3, 2006, 2:45 - 3:45 P.M.

Principal's Conference Room

**Members Present:** Susan Lee, Elizabeth Purcell, John Stiegeler, Meredith Galvin, Grace Curcio, Hillary McKinney, Kate Kodros, Charlie Dullea, Paul Molinelli

**Excused:** Steve Bluford, Kevin Quattrin

### **1. Summer Curriculum Grants**

Paul reported on grant awards and subsequent revisions that the Committee had requested. There was general agreement that the grant review process was effective and that the Committee learned lessons that will make it even better next year. Paul indicated that the grant evaluation process was still being worked out, but that recipients would be expected to submit curriculum materials in the fall, and that a midterm report would be due in mid-January, with a final report due in June. In addition, the "rubric subcommittee," established to create an SCG rubric, will develop and hone a tool that should be ready for full committee review by the fall. In closing, it was noted that the Committee awarded a total of \$27,250 for summer grants. A maximum of \$40,150 are currently allotted annually. The balance of this award money will simply remain in the endowment fund from which it is drawn, where it will continue to grow.

### **2. Workshop Update**

Paul reported that 14 faculty will participate in one or more summer courses offered by Research for Better Teaching, and hosted either at SI or Bishop O'Dowd. These courses include Studying Skillful Teaching, Observing and Analyzing Teaching, and a Cooperative Learning workshop. Since spaces are still available, Paul asked for recommendations of other SI faculty who might benefit or be interested.

### **3. "Creating Safe and Sacred Places"**

The bishops have mandated that all parishes and schools train their constituency about identifying sexual abuse of minors, although they have not provided curriculum or support to do this. Mike Thomas and Rita O'Malley created a PowerPoint presentation based upon an Orange County video, and they presented it to SI parents. However, only eight parents attended!

The next step might be to hold an annual event for frosh parents, as well as provide training for students and faculty. Some other schools have used the video and/or have asked an attorney to come and answer legal questions. The Committee discussed what we might specifically do for our faculty. Ideas included showing the video, inviting an attorney well-versed in these issues, and/or providing online training about sexual harassment.

The Committee then began to discuss the timing of such a presentation, which led to a discussion of the October in-service.

### **4. October In-Service**

The Committee began to discuss how addressing this topic properly would require a significant time commitment, more than just part of a regular faculty meeting. Furthermore, the topic worked nicely with the larger school-wide goal of taking a more integrative, comprehensive approach to wellness/health and sex education at SI. As a first step in this process, we could use this in-service to invite several guest speakers, especially to help raise awareness and assist us in addressing issues

regarding such topics as Internet safety, sexual predators, and the related legal dimensions, as well as inviting someone who can speak about what kids are actually *doing* and confronting with regard to these issues.

Discussion continued about using parts of the Creating Safe and Sacred Places program (such as the video) for the October in-service. Discussion continued about what's out there, what we should know as a community, and learning about what we can and should be doing. This relates to the more specific issue of recognizing and preventing sexual abuse of minors, to the broader issue of sex education and healthy behavior in general. For example, what can we do to improve our knowledge of what should be reported, and how do we identify it? Again, the Committee agreed that it will be important to find people who can speak to the legal/law enforcement dimensions of these issues, social and emotional aspects, as well as people who can speak to the medical dimensions (perhaps someone from a trauma center?).

The Committee agreed to meet again in two weeks to discuss the desired outcomes of the in-service. In the meantime, several members agreed to follow some initial leads on possible speakers and, after some initial inquiries, to report back about their availability and/or interest.

**Next Meeting:** May 16, 2006