

MINUTES

PLANNING MEETING FOR ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL

OCTOBER 28, 2008

Sister Mary Michael and Father Borowiak met Oct. 28, 2008 to continue the planning of Saint Michael Catholic School. Sister Mary Michael reported on her Sept. 8-9 visit to Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas. Sister spoke with Dr. Chuck Osborn, dean of the Teacher's College at Saint Benedict's. The two talked about the possibility of creating a partnership between Benedictine College and Saint Michael parish. The goal of the partnership is to recruit the best and brightest graduates as teachers at Saint Michael School and provide incentives for their hiring.

Discussion has started with Benedictine College because of its proximity to Nebraska, the large number of Midwest students enrolled there and the many ties the school has to the Diocese of Lincoln. Benedictine is also known for its fidelity to Church teaching.

Sister Mary Michael said Dr. Osborn was very receptive to the idea of partnering with Saint Michael parish. He said this was a first for Benedictine College (www.benedictine.edu).

Sister Mary Michael asked Dr. Osborn what incentives students would be open to. She asked if tuition assistance or debt reduction would be viable options. He said there should be other options for students. He said some Benedictine students receive full ride scholarships or have little or no debt. He said hiring incentives could include bonuses or other ideas.

On Nov. 18, Sister Mary Michael had a second visit with Dr. Osborn. Dr. Henderson, co-chair of the Education Department was invited in by Dr. Osborn. Dr. Henderson was open to Sister Michael addressing students in their senior philosophy of education class to gather information. She asked students if they would be open to such a partnership with Saint Michael parish and if any of the students would be interested in teaching at Saint Michael School. Sister said many students responded enthusiastically to such an idea. She said an animated conversation followed with many students and that many students offered ideas for such a partnership.

After meeting with students Sister Mary Michael met again with director of Financial Aid, Mr. Tony Tanking. Sister asked if Benedictine College would be open to be part of a partnership with Saint Michael parish by the College offering incentives to Benedictine students. Mr. Tanking recommended that Sister Mary Michael and Father Borowiak meet with Mr. Steve Minis the president of Benedictine College to discuss this. Sister will try and arrange a meeting in January.

Mr. Keith Jaloma, development director for Benedictine College, had planned to meet with Father and Sister in Lincoln, but due to weather issues, Mr. Jaloma was unable to meet.

Father Borowiak said he wished to create a parish committee to expand the input for planning Saint Michael School. Father asked Steve and Susan Milhouse and Sam and Shannon Tetherow if they would serve as committee members. All four agreed. Both families are currently very involved in Catholic Schools.