

St. Bernard Church

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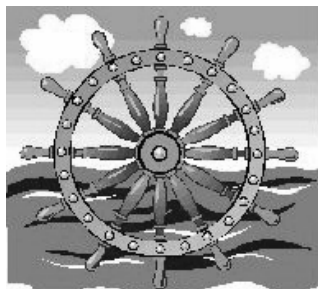
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STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT



Steering Committee

Tom Orsi, Chair
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Arlene Gardiner
John Gibbons
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Walter Pannone
Raymond Vallee

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you especially for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and hold the promise for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight.

Be present with us as we work together: make us responsive to your will and give to us a healthy pride in all we do that we may be good stewards of all things entrusted to us.

May the prayers of our patron Bernard help us to keep in mind the wise counsel given long ago "whoever would climb to a lofty height must go by steps, not leaps."

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

The Steering Committee along with Mark Bamford and Ed Zajac from the School Subcommittee met for several hours last Saturday morning with Michael Viveiros, our architect from Durkee, Brown, Viveiros and Werenfels and Laura Wernick from the firm of HMFH Architects. HMFH is a firm out of Massachusetts that has extensive experience in designing schools. Our meeting centered on discussing ideas on how the school should operate, from both the educational and structural aspects and how the architects can help bring these ideas to fruition through their design.

On their list of tangible items to consider, the architects included the need for lots of natural light, good acoustics and air quality. Adequate storage and physical safety provisions such as unobstructed views and ample outside lighting were also on the list. Intangible considerations included a warm, welcoming space that is friendly and child-centered and one that will provide a supportive learning environment. The architects showed slides of schools with open and airy classrooms in a home-like atmosphere. Compared to the often institutional feel of many older school buildings, the architects' ideas were quite refreshing.

Survey Update - When Father Dennis returns this week, the Committee is planning to have a conference call with Father and Gary Gelo from the school survey company, Meitler. We will review the results of the survey and see what Meitler recommends that we do next.



THIS WEEK

On Wednesday evening, the Steering Committee met with four representatives from Shawmut Construction to further discuss the concept of hiring a construction manager for our project. You may recall that a few weeks ago we met with Paul Choquette III from Gilbane to discuss the same topic. Using the base of knowledge gleaned from the Gilbane meeting, the session with Shawmut was interactive and in the end, educational. Presumably, the more information we can gather, the better decisions and recommendations we will be able to make.

A construction manager's goal is to use their expertise to get a project completed on time, on budget, and according to the specifications. Sounds like a reasonable concept, doesn't it?

Inserts available online at: http://www.sbcwickford.org/steering_committee/index.html