

School Success Board Presentation
Examples of Best Practice
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All of the examples listed below are in addition to the examples used in the power point presentation.

I. EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP ON SECONDARY AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

In General the Pastors, Principals/Presidents had a deep understanding of what it takes to run a school organization and to inspire the people who are a part of their community. They looked for new opportunities to be creative and to think outside of the box. They were open to new ideas from staff, teachers, board members, students and volunteers.

Below are a few examples of excellent leadership we encountered during our visits.

1. At one school the Administrator made it known to the student body that they could come to her with ideas for after school clubs based on their interests. Some ideas the students came up with for clubs were: chess, running, knitting, robotics and even a “ slime” club!!

Takeaways:

- Students learning to be creative, responsible.
- Students developing organizational and problem solving skills.
- Students have a sense of belonging, feel empowered and enjoy being a part of the school community.
- Emotionally happy and confident children leads to satisfied parents.

2. Some principals have effectively utilized volunteer staff, such as retired teachers, seniors and community members.

Takeaways:

- Volunteers tutored students in various subjects.
- Volunteers supported students socially and emotionally.
- Volunteers help with advancement activities on the secondary level.

3. A few elementary schools were good examples of how successful schools can be when the pastor and principal are working as a team.

Takeaway:

- This has resulted in the parish and elementary school working closely together and in a synergistic way that benefits both the school and parish community.

II. RECRUITMENT/ENROLLMENT/MARKETING

A number of Pastors/Presidents/Principals understand they are running a business and their product is a strong Catholic, academic education and safe environment! Many administrators at both levels have hired experienced, creative and passionate marketing/recruiting staff either full or part time.

Additional examples are noted below.

1. Many of the elementary schools we visited offered:
 - All day pre-k and kindergarten
 - Before and aftercare
 - Summer camps run by faculty and volunteers, and available to the broader community.

Takeaways:

- All of the above programs offered flexible hours which parents found appealing and helpful - Enrollment was high
 - This has peaked the interest of parents whose children are not in the school to consider enrolling their child. Some parents have done so.
2. A few schools were able to leave their literature in local businesses and libraries.
 3. One school has their marketing/recruiting person attend the local Rotary and Chamber of Commerce meeting. This has resulted in building relationships with local business people. Some of these people have become more involved and supportive of the school.
 4. On both elementary and secondary levels including local businesses or organizations on their school board has been very effective.

III. SOLID FINANCIAL UNDERSTANDING AND CONTROL

The Pastors, Presidents/Principals and local school boards in most of the schools we visited had a very good handle on the finances of the school. They knew how to project out their yearly budgets based on enrollment, savings and expenditures. Additional examples are noted below:

1. The business manager of one parish, on the elementary school level, works with the school administration and board members to develop the annual budget and manage other financial issues.

Takeaway:

- Establishing sound relationships between the two entities is a plus for both the school and parish.
2. One Pastor has a monthly collection for the school at all the Sunday Masses.

3. One school has developed strong relationships with grandparents who now support the school financially.
4. Several of the schools have endowment funds and/or parish subsidy. One school has a fund that was started by the parents in 1976 and has grown over time to be quite substantial.
5. Secondary schools generally have investment funds or endowments left to the school.
6. Financial transparency by the Pastors and Administrators was evident in some of the schools as well as the parishes. .

IV. EXTENSIVE PARENTAL, BOARD, VOLUNTEER, COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

We saw in many of the schools both elementary and secondary that everyone played an active role in supporting the school and its various activities. This included all stakeholders – students, teachers, staff, board members, parents, President/Principal, Pastor and broader community. Everyone has a hand in the success of their school.

Additional examples noted below:

1. Many schools had strong HSA and Board Advancement Committees that are involved with fund raising and community building events.
2. One school's relationship with local businesses resulted in a \$50,000. Technology Grant.
3. Several schools had developed strong working boards made up of different stakeholders of their community – e.g. HSA members, parents, parishioners, parish trustees, and representatives from their local businesses.

Takeaway:

- Where there is trust, communication and transparency among administrators (including Pastors on the elementary level), school board members, and parents, there is trust in the school's mission and dedication to the schools success.