

School Commission Minutes – March 8, 2022 @ 6:00pm

Shepherd of the Hills- Coffee House

Present: John Laughrin, Sarah Benike-Immel, Barb Grzywinski, Ron Smyczek (Principal), Barb Welsh, Andrea Gade, Nina Johnson, Wendy Pelletier, Kelly Schisel, Katie Schaalma

Absent: Leah Bode, Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing, Jenn Wilke, Susanne Rea

Opening Prayer

Oh Lord, please help me this day. Give me eyes to see how you are at work in every one of my circumstances. Lord, give me perseverance to increase my understanding of you. Give me a hunger to read your Word and to seek to know you more each day. Just as the dawn comes with its exact precision, help me to trust that You will also move in my life, in your perfect timing and in your beautiful way. In your name I pray, amen.

Tiffany Thibault

Mission Statement

Walking the path of Christ with love and service through a Catholic education.

2021-2022 Theme: Faith in Action

Colossians 3:17 “And whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.” Amen.

School Reports - Ron Smyczek (Nina Johnson, Wendy Pelletier, Kelly Schisel, Katie Schaalma)

- **School Good News:**

- a. Run for the Hills confirmed \$1378 in matching funds for Dollars for Scholars in addition to \$5000 we raised.
- b. Catholic Schools Week went well. Receptions after masses were well received.
- c. We have had several students sign up to become cantors. Started school year with 17 and now have 22.
- d. Spring concert preparation coming along well. Musical called “On the Radio” is the theme. Concert is on May 10th.
- e. 3K/4K just finished theme on Dr. Suess. Students picked up on a lot of rhyming words.
- f. 7th and 8th grade participated in Building Bridges. Half-day engineering sessions offered through Engineering Tomorrow.
- g. Students doing stations of the cross and focused on lent.
- h. Reading themes, presentations, assemblies well received by students.
- i. Kindergarten is starting to focus on readings books and using iPads.
- j. Kids really enjoyed the DJ for the middle-school dance.

- **Principals Report:**
 - a. Getting towards end of virtual Spanish program. Structure was not ideal. Working with a potential teaching candidate to start in the fall of 2022, possibly sooner.
 - b. Working on verifying staffing for 2022-2023 school year.
 - c. Parent group meeting on Friday, 3/11 to work on next steps with the greenhouse.
 - d. 8th grade retreat was held at Camp Vista on February 25th. Potentially looking to do school mass there before end of school year.
 - e. Re-Enrollment season has begun. (16 re-enrolls, 2 new preschool siblings so far)
 - i. Little Lambs program showed potential for 4-7 new children
 - f. Potential counseling candidate not as interested as initially thought. Coordinating with CSD/St. Matt's for consulting.

Business Reports

- **Review and Approve January Meeting Minutes: Approved**
- **Parent/Parishioner Comments: All**
 - a. None
- **Pastoral Council: Ron Smyczek**
 - a. Parish is participating in Arch Diocese Campaign, "Love One Another"; our campaign would go towards capital needs for the parish/school.
 - b. Chicken Dinner scheduled for May 1st, take-out and dine-in available.

Committee Reports

- **Executive and Policy: Sarah Benike-Immel**
 - a. School Committee Membership:
 - i. Still recruiting for secretary and long-range planning members
- **Budget and Fundraising- Jenn Wilke:**
 - a. Sweet Dreams Auction results:
 - i. FUNDA raised about \$22,000 with matching donation. Will be primarily used for interior painting.
 - ii. Meals were down this year at 170 vs. 290 from last year
 - iii. Cash donations were strong
 - iv. Overall raised slightly more than last year, still finalizing numbers
 - v. Big "THANK YOU" to the committee: Lauren Laughrin, Dave Ruplinger, Melanie Knowles, Barb Welsh, Andrea Abler, Ron Smyczek

- **Long Range Planning- Ron Smyczek:**
 - a. How do we get an endowment together to help us afford a counselor?
 - b. What else do we need programmatically?
 - c. How do we improve our compensation?
 - d. Building needs some refreshing and upgrades (i.e., paint, facilities care)
 - e. Ron will coordinate with Pastoral Council on capital items

- **Marketing and Recruitment- Andrea Gade:**
 - a. Should we be marketing Springs Tuition Assistance and Springs sports access more? Ron working with Stacy from Springs on this.
 - i. Will publish St. Mary's Springs scholarship, especially to 8th grade families.
 - b. Focusing on bringing families together to build sense of community, particularly for new families to build relationships and build school pride through Wine and Cheese and donut events after mass during Catholic Schools Week.
 - c. Will market school at Bunny Brunch.
 - d. Need to setup dates for preschool open house.

- **Home and School- Barb Grzywinski:**
 - a. Next meeting date is March 28th
 - b. Sledding event at Camp Vista went really well.

Next Meeting: Tues, May 3, 2022 @ 6:00 pm
SOTH Coffee House

Tentative Future Meeting Dates:
Tuesday, September 6, 2022
Tuesday, November 8, 2022