

**School Commission Minutes-May 2, 2023 @ 6:00 PM**  
**Shepherd of the Hills-Coffee House**

**Present:** John Laughrin, Sarah Benike-Immel, Barb Grzywinski, Jenn Wilke, Jennifer Pelz, Corey Pelz, Tonya Achter, Leah Bode, Ron Smyczek, Barb Welsh, Becky Pausha, Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing, Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Goffard, Father Mark

**Opening Prayer**

**Mission Statement**

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

**2022-23 Theme:** Safe in the Shepherd's Arms

Psalm 23:1-6 "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want..." Amen

**School Reports-Ron Smyczek (Mrs. Goffard, Mrs. Hughes)**

- **School Good News:**

- a. The academic theme of The Lord is our Shepherd is going well, the plan for next year will be discussed at June in-service. Submit ideas!
- b. Stations during Lent went well.
- c. The kids' peanut butter and jelly drive had a positive outcome.
- d. Muffins with Mom has found a great rhythm.
- e. Bake Sale raised \$850 in sales. Big thanks for organizing. This money goes towards Spanish materials for the library, ie. flash cards, familiar books, etc.
- f. First Communion was a couple weeks ago, and it went well. May crowning is tomorrow 5/3.
- g. We have 9 eighth graders on course to graduate. All going to SMSA
- h. GOTR practice 5k is tomorrow 5/3 at SOTH and the event is 5/13 at Fondy HS. It has been a very positive experience for the girls. We have 9 girls in the 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade. Hope is to have this continue at SOTH and try and get the 6-8 grades involved.
- i. Need ideas on how to add in programs next year like the GOTR? Ex: Walking with a purpose program is one that information is going out in the newsletter. More ideas welcomed.

- **Principals Report:**

- a. New Superintendent at Archdiocese, Ed Foy. Not sure if there will be any changes.
- b. Safety plan review with Fondly Sheriff to continue programs. Some minor safety issues were noted, and plans are in place to fix.

- c. State funds proposal for budget to send money to private/religious schools. Advocacy groups working on a proposed plan for this money, similar to how the COVID money was divided.
- d. Held Love and Logic series, which helps build relationships and puts ownership to students and not teachers, etc. Low attendance to this. There are videos available to view at request.
- e. Enrollment: 80 students eligible and currently 50 are re-enrolled. We know of a few students not returning. We have had lots of tours and are building the little lambs program. We are not able to advertise in the mail due to crossing other school boundaries. Word of mouth is our best method. The idea of advertising in day cares was discussed and it sounded like this may be an outlet we can use without crossing other schools.
- f. Staffing: Mrs. Goffard will be assisting in the 3k room next year, Mrs. Diane is retiring, Miss Johnson is stepping down to attend Grad School, Mrs. Baus will be done to pursue her other career, and our science teacher will not be returning next year.
- g. We are in the process of hiring a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher-Amelia. A couple of local parishioners Sue and Carla are going to tag team the childcare. Dan Z agreed to take driving position but only part time, Still working on details of how this will work. Looking for someone else to cover the other half of this job.
- h. Needs: Kindergarten, Science, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers needed. Along with bus driver.
- i. Discussion on the 3 and 4<sup>th</sup> grade splitting due to 4<sup>th</sup> graders moving up to middle school, are the current 3<sup>rd</sup> graders ready for middle school? With the smaller numbers will this work? Also, in a similar issue with the 6 and 7<sup>th</sup> graders split for next year? Continue splitting for certain classes?
- j. Mr. Smyczek is leaving at the end of the year. Evaluating options for this role.

### **Review and Approve May Meeting Minutes: Approved**

### **Parent/Parishioner Comments:**

- a. UNIFORM: French toast ignored us on uniforms. Lands End sent samples. Set out samples for spring concert? Use Hoppers? Mr. Smyczek is looking into a decision.
- b. Shout out to Ron for all things he has done, greeting students and making their day better when they arrive.
- c. Shout out to Heather for the art projects and getting kids excited about art.

- **Pastoral Council: Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing**

- a. Haven't met yet. Meeting coming up.

## Committee Reports

- **Executive and Policy: Sarah Benike-Immel**

- a. Jenn is in her 4<sup>th</sup> year. Leaving a position open next year.
- b. Open positions long range, budget and fundraising.
- c. Next year John and Sarah's last year on committee.
- d. Dress code: Discussion on sweatshirt use. Evaluating change to crew neck sweatshirts and NO hoodies. Worry about hoodies not looking uniformed. Students also have not been wearing their polos under sweatshirts. Must wear your polo underneath.

- **Budget and Fundraising- Jenn Wilke:**

- a. \$ 70,200 raised from Dinner Auction. FUNDA \$22,525. Attendance down this year since COVID. Successful event, food was good, decoration and theme were well liked.
- b. Fun Facts: 133 silent auctions, only 6 didn't sell (photography). 1676 silent auction bids, 63 purchased, 27 of the purchasers were not in attendance.
- c. Idea for next year's auction: Close bidding outside of dinner.

- **Long Range Planning- Ron Smyczek:**

- a. Structure for financials for staff, Sandra and Ron looked over data and ideas are in play to chase a plan Nothing since March in place.

- **Marketing and Recruitment- Ron Smyczek:**

- a. Social Media: plans to get the website off Weebly and on its own domain name. Mr. Holden was tasked to help, very extensive project.

- **Home and School- Barb Grzywinski:**

- a. Winding up season. Mtg in May to talk about summer get together and parade. Ideas: Eden parade, movie night.
- b. Wellness day, campus cleanup was surprising to people who helped and how much there was to clean. The tour of the dairy farm very interesting and its new modern technology.
- c. Book fair still needs help. Please sign up.
- d. Teacher appreciation week up coming. Google doc for signups to bring items for the teachers. Fun decorations will be hung up this Friday.
- e. Field day covered by staff.
- f. Graduation-ice cream after mass covered by Sarah H's. parents.

- g. The Service league of FDL has money to donate you must ask as it isn't just handed out, also ask for more than you need, and there must be a plan/need. This can be annually, and best to request in August.
- h. Lemonade day at Blue Door and B&B students raising money for a Gaga pit. Stand is 10 am-1pm.

**Next Meeting: September 12, 2023**

**Tentative Future Meeting Dates:**

November 14, 2023

January 9, 2024

March 12, 2024

May 14, 2024