

## **School Commission Minutes – Jan 11, 2022 @ 6:00pm**

Shepherd of the Hills- Coffee House

**Present:** John Laughrin, Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing, Sarah Benike-Immel, Barb Grzywinski, Jenn Wilke, Abbey Carter, Rob Holden

**Absent:** Ron Smyczek (Principal), Barb Welsh, Andrea Gade, Leah Bode, Susanne Rea

### **Opening Prayer**

Lord, at the start of each day, help us to recognize you above all else. Enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see you and notice how you're at work through our lives.

Give us the wisdom to make the best choices, fill us with a desire to seek after you more than anything else in this world. Let your Spirit and power breathe in us, through us, again, fresh and new. Thank you that you are greater than anything we may face in our day. Thank you that your presence goes with us and that your joy is never dependent on our circumstances, but it is our true and lasting strength, no matter what we're up against. We ask that your peace lead us, that it would guard our hearts and minds in you. We ask for your grace to cover our lives this day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

- Debbie McDaniel

### **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 (Abbey Carter, Rob Holden)**

- **School Good News:**
  - a. The faculty and staff are incredibly appreciative of the 12 days of Christmas appreciations and gifts. Big thank you to the parents and Parish Council for coordinating and contributing to those efforts!
  - b. Christmas concerts were very well received- both the traditional evening program in the church as well as a less formal "recital" on Monday, Dec 20.
  
- **Principals Report:**
  - a. Little Lambs program for 2-year-olds will start in January and run through February to help us start our re-enrollment cycle.
  - b. New hires Kelly Schissel for 3K-4K, her assistant, Vanessa Bravo and our 5K teacher, Nina Johnson seem to be very good fits.

- c. Planning for our first Catholic Schools Week since 2020 is going well. Marketing Committee, H&S and the CSW Committee are nicely coordinated to provide lots of opportunities to showcase our school.
- d. Auction Committee is organizing a great event for February.

## **Business Reports**

- **Review and Approve November Meeting Minutes: Approved**
- **Parent/Parishioner Comments: All**
  - a. Request for a School Counselor
    - i. Email from archdiocese surveying who was looking for counselor
      - 1. There are a few other local schools in our deanery that may be looking for a similar resource. Is there room for us to share a resource? Ron to follow up on this.
    - ii. We need to define what our goals are.
    - iii. Internships would need to be paid.
  - b. Concerns about curriculum (Ron shared response)
  - c. Concerns about Middle School program (Ron shared response)
  - d. Reminder School Commission is an advisory board to School Administration and is not a policy making/setting board with decision making rights
  - e. Our school committees are running very low on volunteers. Could we do a similar sign up at the beginning of the school year like we do for all of the Home & School Committee events? We've had really good success on the H&S signup in the past few years. Might be a great way to create visibility.
- **Pastoral Council: Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing**
  - a. Meeting next week, will have update at next School Commission Meeting
  - b. Seems Pastoral Council meets 3<sup>rd</sup> week and School Commission meets 2<sup>nd</sup> week – do we need to change this for next year?

## **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. Dinner Auction committee is in dire need of donations. Cutoff is January 31<sup>st</sup>. We have not had a lot of donations coming in.

- b. Dinner Auction Committee is a group of 5. They will be going down to 4 after this year. There is a dire need for volunteers to join. This fundraiser is critical to our budget.
- **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)
- **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.
  - b. We have decided to postpone further radio ads and will be redirecting funds toward improving our online presence-google search visibility, website, social media.
  - c. Planning a wine/cheese social for the Saturday evening Catholic School's Week Mass and a donut social in between the Sunday Masses-encourage school families to attend for a great event and to show non-school families what a great community we have!
- **Home and School- Barb Grzywinski:**
  - a. Poinsettia sale was successful. Sold 197 poinsettias and profited \$2000.
  - b. Christmas concert cookie social was well attended. Hot chocolate was a hit.
  - c. Christmas movie day went well. Kids enjoyed the punch.
  - d. Looking into a family night as part of catholic schools week.
  - e. Looking for a DJ for middle school dance. Date is February 4<sup>th</sup>. 3:15-4:45 PM.
  - f. Next meeting date is March 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Next Meeting:** Tues, March 8, 2022 @ 6:00 pm  
SOTH Coffee House

**Tentative Future Meeting Dates:**

Tuesday, May 17, 2022  
Tuesday, September 6, 2022  
Tuesday, November 8, 2022