

School Commission Minutes – Nov 9, 2021 @ 6:00pm

Shepherd of the Hills- Coffee House

Present: Ron Smyczek (Principal), John Laughrin, Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing, Andrea Gade, Sarah Benike-Immel, Barb Grzywinski, Leah Bode, Susanne Rea, Nici Colwin

Absent: Barb Welsh, Jen Wilke

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, at Thanksgiving time, we bow our hearts to You in prayer. We give You thanks for all You have done, mostly for the gift of Jesus Christ, Your Son. For beauty in nature, in which we see Your Glory, for joy and health, friends, and family. For our daily sustenance, your mercy and care, these are the blessings You kindly share. So today we offer this response of praise with a promise to follow You all our days. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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 (Nici Colwin)

- **School Good News:**
 - a. Greenhouse has electricity. Heater is on the way. Teachers are working on biology-type ideas and Mother's Day projects.
 - i. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing available to help as a resource for this
 - b. Internet is improved. New hookup from Frontier installed in October.
 - c. Volleyball season went well.
 - d. Basketball is starting this week.
 - e. Successful fall events:
 - i. Run for the Hills raised \$5,000. Waiting to hear about our match from the archdiocese Sole Walk.
 - ii. Steak Fry raised quite a bit of money. Waiting on official numbers.
 - iii. Bookfair went well. We raised \$2,000.
 - iv. Seroogy's chocolate sale is ongoing.
 - f. Monthly reading activities tied to academic theme.
 - g. New teachers and staff are great additions. Nina Johnson (K5), Kelly Schisel (K4), Vanessa Bravo (K4 assistant) and Jason Wolf (Maintenance)

- h. Have some helpers pitching in: Mary Bowe and Karen Schreiner
- **Principals Report:**
 - a. Derek Rehfeldt, our safety officer, came and did safety presentation on a range of emergency topics for students.
 - b. Mask Mandate was in place September 9th through October 11th as a response to spike in cases in our area.
 - i. Delta variant was more impactful for kids.
 - ii. Fond du Lac County Health department was strongly encouraging with data.
 - iii. Community feedback encouraged the ability to choose. With minimal cases at SOTH, mandate was removed.
 - c. Spanish program to be starting in November.
 - i. Will be held virtually. Elevate K12 is name of program.
 - ii. Will have a dedicated teacher. Classroom teachers will be present for support.
 - iii. 1st through 5th grade is enrichment.
 - iv. 6th through 8th grade is educational Spanish 1.
 - d. Starting to work on our 2022-2023 school calendar.

Business Reports

- **Review and Approve September Meeting Minutes: Approved**
- **Parent/Parishioner Comments: All**
 - a. Request to investigate starting a parent walking group.
 - i. Decision that we did not want to sponsor this as a school given liability concerns. Parents are welcome to assemble independently on campus, just not officially sponsored by school.
 - b. Request to restart field trips and ensure money is in the budget for this.
 - i. Cannot do indoor but do have money allocated for outdoor.
 - ii. In years past, teachers would plan a fun day for the kids. There have been some fun trips to Camp Vista or Brewer games.... things like that. Ron will follow up with Jill for more details – time off school? School funded? Etc.
 - iii. The Washington DC trip has been done a few times. It's organized by 8th grade parents and is not associated with the school because it's after graduation.
 - iv. Strongly believe we need to start this tradition back up. 8th grade trips and retreat!
 - c. 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.
- d. Concerns about curriculum (Ron will work on response in January)
- e. Concerns about Middle School program (Ron will work on response in January)

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

- a. Welcome to Susanne Rea, new to Pastoral Council

Committee Reports

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

- a. School Committee Membership:
 - i. Still recruiting for secretary (potentially Leah Bode) and long-range planning members
 - ii. Current Membership List:
 1. Sarah Benike-Immel – Chairperson – Year 2
 2. John Laughrin - Vice-Chairperson – Year 2
 3. Open - Secretary
 4. Andrea Gade – Marketing – Year 3
 5. Open - Long Term Planning
 6. Barb Grzywinski - Home & School – Year 4
 7. Susanne Rea - Pastoral Council Representative – Year 1
 8. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing - Pastoral Council Representative – Year 1
 9. Jen Wilke - Budget & Finance/Fundraising – Year 3
 10. Ron Smyczek – Principal
 11. Leah Bode – Member – Year 1

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

- a. Update to come in January meeting on fundraising.

- **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. Want to do Parade of Lights in Fond du Lac but have not gotten any volunteers. Sarah Desiderio can coordinate but is unavailable to attend that day.
 - b. Did little radio campaign at Springs football game last week. We did one ad per quarter. Cost was \$100. Could do it again this Friday.
 - c. Discussing doing an event after 4PM mass and between Sunday masses during Catholic School's Week as a community type event. Ideas: wine and cheese event.
 - d. Restarting Little Lambs in January/February. Builds sense of community and family.
 - e. Brainstorming on student retention. Promoting middle school and the importance of Catholic formation during that time of life.
 - f. Should we be marketing Springs Tuition Assistance and Springs sports access more? Ron working with Stacy from Springs on this.
- **Home and School- Barb Grzywinski:**
 - a. Trunk or Treat was well attended
 - b. Expecting profit of \$3,300 on Seroogy's candy sale
 - c. Donuts with Dad on 11/10
 - d. Poinsettia Sale has begun. Looking for people to help sell vouchers at masses. Will be doing an incentive for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place families who sell the most.
 - e. Ron and Heather are working on a children's Christmas ornament craft. We will plan to sell these after masses and profits will go to charity. Charity will be St. Catherine Drexel House.

Next Meeting: Tues, January 11, 2022 @ 6:00 pm
SOTH Coffee House

Tentative Future Meeting Dates:

Tuesday, March 8, 2022
Tuesday, May 10, 2022
Tuesday, September 6, 2022
Tuesday, November 8, 2022