

School Commission Minutes – Sep 7, 2021 @ 6:00pm

Shepherd of the Hills- Coffee House

Present: Ron Smyczek (Principal), John Laughrin, Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing, Andrea Gade, Sarah Benike-Immel, Jen Wilke, Barb Grzywinski, Leah Bode, Alyssa Mogensen, Robbi Hughes

Absent: Barb Welsh

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, we give you our hopes, worries and fears as our lovely children start school. We pray that you would fill their hearts with excitement and calm their worries with your love. Please go before them, help them make friends, enjoy the activities, and build relationships with their teachers and carers. May we learn to entrust them each day into your care, and as we do may they grow in confidence and independence. Father, may joy abound in their hearts as they enter this new exciting season of their lives. 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 (Alyssa Mogensen, Robbi Hughes)

- **School Good News:**
 - a. Everyone has been very civil and respectful of each individual family’s mask choice, which is very appreciated
 - b. Enthusiasm of kids and parents has been strong as we start the year

- **Principals Report:**
 - a. Opened at 87 students, up from last year (opened at 79, closed at 86)
 - b. Two new teachers on staff: Kelly Schisel (3K-4K), Nina Johnson (Kindergarten)
 - c. We have an aide, Vanessa Bravo, to help with 3K-4K due to size of this group
 - d. Jason Wolf has joined us as our maintenance leader

- e. Still searching for a Spanish teacher; there is an online option, while not ideal, we could utilize this if needed
- f. Credit to middle school teachers for finding creative ways to intermix middle-school cohorts based on activity, standards, etc. so not all together all the time
- g. One positive COVID case so far this year, member of SOTH staff
- h. Catholic Identity Theme: Faith in Action. First group activity this week.
- i. Academic Theme: Reading. Will cover many different genres.

Business Reports

- **Review and Approve May Meeting Minutes:** Approved
- **Parent/Parishioner Comments: All**
 - a. Request to look into starting a parent walking group. Concerned about legal requirements. Could they sign a waiver? Ron to have Sandra discuss theoretical with lawyers to determine if any legal issues.
 - b. Discussed feedback on quality of school events such as Donuts with Dad or Muffins with Mom. How do we create a more inviting atmosphere? Ideas: Have kids make placemats, more food options, table clothes, balloons, etc? Raffle basket giveaway? Take feedback to Home and School committee for future planning.
 - c. Request to restart field trips and ensure money is in the budget for this. Cannot do indoor, but do have money allocated for outdoor. Sarah follow up with Jill on what this looked like in the past? Was there a formal 8th grade trip?
 - d. Request for a School Counselor – Ron to follow up on this.
 - e. Inquiry on how we applied for and were approved for COVID Free Lunch Program – program was offered at the state level, we did apply for the program as a benefit of all families that attend SOTH. This is separate from “Free and Reduced Lunch” program that is in place for families in monetary need, but this program is still there for those who will need it in the future.
- **Pastoral Council: Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing**
 - a. Welcome Loretta
 - b. Indoor dining still prohibited
 - c. Brat Fry September 18/19 after Saturday, Sunday masses
 - d. Steak Fry and All School Mass October 16th
 - e. Chicken Dinner October 24th

Committee Reports

- **Executive and Policy: Sarah Benike-Immel**
 - a. School Committee Membership:
 - i. John Laughrin voted in as Vice Chair
 - ii. Still recruiting for secretary, potentially Leah Bode
 - iii. Other Options: Jen Pelz (Andrea Gade to follow up), Becky Pauscha (Sarah Benike-Immel to follow up), target new families
 - b. Dress code was unchanged from prior year. Mass attire still requires khaki pants with the option to change into shorts after mass.

- **Budget and Fundraising- Jenn Wilke:**
 - a. Dinner Auction Meeting scheduled for February 19th
 - b. Run for the Hills scheduled for October 2nd

- **Long Range Planning- Ron Smyczek:**
 - a. Used COVID funds to upgrade technology and internet
 - b. How do we get an endowment together to help us afford a counselor?
 - c. What else do we need programmatically?
 - d. Ron will connect with David Gitter and teachers on potential ideas and resources.

- **Marketing and Recruitment- Andrea Gade:**
 - a. Did Eden parade
 - b. Had radio ads in July and August, now on hold, still waiting to decide if we will do another set or pivot to something else
 - c. Did end of year testimonial videos at Muffins with Mom
 - d. Held early childhood meetings
 - e. Have not yet met for this year to develop plans
 - f. Is having Spanish as part of academic program a marketing tool? Is that the right way to allocate our funds?
 - g. Are radio ads generating leads? Its not our number one (word of mouth is), but it is keeping our name out there so people are hearing it more. More so for market presence than actual recruitment.
 - h. Should we be marketing Springs Tuition Assistance and Springs sports access more? Ron to follow up on what the rules of engagement are surrounding these topics.

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

- a. Sponsored donuts for parents on first day of school
- b. October 18-24 fall book fair
- c. October 19 will kick off Seroogy's candy bar sale, Colleen Ruplinger leading this
- d. Looking for more volunteers, sign up on Sign Up Genius
- e. Considering an additional fundraiser, poinsettia, or Christmas flower sale
- f. Considering family night during Catholic School's Week

Next Meeting: Tues, November 9, 2021 @ 6:00 pm
SOTH Coffee House

Tentative Future Meeting Dates:

Tuesday, January 7, 2022

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Tuesday, May 10, 2022

Tuesday, September 6, 2022

Tuesday, November 8, 2022