

School Commission Minutes – May 3, 2022 @ 6:00pm

Shepherd of the Hills- Coffee House

Present: John Laughrin, Sarah Benike-Immel, Barb Grzywinski, Ron Smyczek (Principal), Barb Welsh, Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing, Jenn Wilke, Leah Bode, Brittany Bengel, Karen Kutka

Absent: Susanne Rea, Andrea Gade

Opening Prayer

God, thank you for Spring and the hope of warmer, longer, brighter days.
Thank you for the coming of growth and life and birth.
Thank you that things are coming awake in the world.
This is what our calendar says, and we do see some signs that it is real.
But we also still struggle with the residual layover of winter.
Now we ask that you bring into reality all that belongs in this season.
Your word says that we will have provision, and hope, and joy, and health and loving relationships here and now in this life.
We ask that what belongs in this season would become actual in our practical lives.
We hope in you and in your promises. We hope in your gift of Spring.
Author Unknown

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 (Brittany Bengel, Karen Kutka)

- **School Good News:**
 - a. 6 students in grades 2-3 received First Communion
 - b. We won 6 out of 8 Knights of Columbus math and spelling quizzes
 - c. Positive reviews on Lock-In and Music Lunch with teachers from dinner auction
 - d. Many lenten activities and reflections incorporate to remind students and families of the importance of our faith
 - e. \$20,000 grant received to help offset 3% increase in tuition
 - f. COVID funds must be planned by May 13 with ability to spend by fall 2023 (used for technology, cleaning supplies, virtual Spanish program, and internet)
 - g. Teacher Appreciation Week: Theme is Peace, Love, and Teaching
 - h. Preparing for painting of the building this summer with FUNDA funds
 - i. Middle School (grades 6-8) will be attending Track & Field event in Sheboygan

- j. Middle School Science Update:
 - i. 8th graders finished electricity and circuits labs where they created light-up greeting cards, now working on dissection and anatomy
 - ii. 6th and 7th working on food science
 - iii. 5th graders working on waves and light labs
- **Principals Report:**
 - a. Virtual Spanish program ended in March, but have Senora Torres with us in-person to finish out school year and signed on for next year
 - b. Greenhouse is up and running. Using for class learning: observation, measurement, and process. Plants also being used for art projects, Fond du Lac Museum, and SoTH garden.
 - c. Many May Events:
 - i. May 4: Grandparents Day and May Crowning
 - ii. May 5: Kindergarten Testing
 - iii. May 11: Muffins with Mom
 - iv. May 18: Camp Vista Mass, Candle Ceremony, Field Day
 - v. May 25: Graduation in evening
 - vi. May 27: Last day of school, early dismissal
 - d. Re-enrollment: 71 of 81 re-enrolled. 2 not returning. 2 verbal re-enroll. 5 uncommitted. 6 new students (5 in 3K/4K), 1 from Little Lambs so far.
 - e. 22-23 School Calendar
 - i. Fall conferences will be in-person with students attending
 - ii. Encourage a focus on families taking vacation days around breaks instead of sporadically
 - iii. 3 Wellness Days (October, February, April) with no in-person school gathering
 - 1. Student activities with help of Home & School: service, nature, roller skating, mental health and reflection, etc.
 - 2. Teachers focus on some planning and especially mental health

Business Reports

- **Review and Approve March Meeting Minutes: Approved**
- **Parent/Parishioner Comments: All**
 - a. Kids are loving new in-person Spanish program!
 - b. Increased presence by Father Mark in the classrooms which the children are enjoying
- **Pastoral Council: Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing**
 - a. Council would like to have a mass to recognize school and parish volunteers on May 14th and 15th with a special blessing
 - b. Still waiting on reports of brat fry
 - c. Will be working to approve the next year's budget at the next meeting

- d. Have some new families looking at the parish; Ron will reach out to see if any potential students

Committee Reports

- **Executive and Policy: Sarah Benike-Immel**
 - a. Review School Dress Code Policy
 - i. Need clarification on dress-up days (shirts only or includes pants)
 - ii. No other proposed changes
 - b. Align 2022 meeting dates with Pastoral Council and any other committees? Ron will follow up with Dave Gitter.
 - c. School Commission Membership:
 - i. Still recruiting for secretary 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. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing - Pastoral Council Representative – Year 1
 8. Jen Wilke - Budget & Finance/Fundraising – Year 3
 9. Ron Smyczek – Principal
 10. Leah Bode – Member – Year 1
 - iii. Will need new representative from Home & School for next school year
 - iv. Sarah and John both at end of two-year terms. Planning to renew.
- **Budget and Fundraising- Jenn Wilke:**
 - a. \$89,618 total earnings for Dinner Gala. Dinner Auction Committee meeting at Paddy's Pizza on June 1st at 6:00 PM. Will be deciding on theme.
- **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- Ron Smyczek:**
 - a. Putting more emphasis on Springs tuition scholarship
 - b. Had swag at Bunny Brunch to promote school
 - c. Coordinating Kindergarten days in May

- d. Working on summer Early Childhood Meeting dates
- **Home and School- Barb Grzywinski:**
 - a. Meeting Thursday, May 19th at 6:00 PM at Red Cabin at Green Acres
 - b. Working on date for summer movie night
 - c. Coordinating plans for Eden parade

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

Tentative Future Meeting Dates:
Tuesday, November 8, 2022