

School Commission Minutes-Nov 8, 2023 @ 6:00 PM Shepherd of the Hills-Coffee House

Present: John Laughrin, Sarah Benike-Immel, Jennifer Pelz, Corey Pelz, Leah Bode, , Barb Welsh, Barb Grzywinski, Jenn Wilke, Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing, Mr. Holden, Miss Colwin, Mrs. Freund

Absent: Tim Reichelt, Father Mark

Opening Prayer

Mission Statement

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

2023-24 Theme: Be the "I" in Kind - Ephesians 4:32

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." Amen

School Reports- Tim Reichelt (provided electronically) (Miss Colwin, Mr. Holden, Mrs. Freund)

- **School Good News:**

- a. Students are engaged, appropriately academically challenged, and continuing to build academic stamina throughout their day
- b. We kicked off our annual American Heart Association fundraiser on November 4th. Goal of \$4094 to beat last year's record.
- c. Raised about \$485 to pay it forward to the NED assembly
- d. "Wellness Day" pictures were a huge success, students were very proud to share what they did on that day.
- e. GaGa Ball Pit is awesome, students love it and are playing whenever they are able. A big thank you to all that contributed!
- f. First snow of the year was good, most students were prepared and we will be in a good spot for the winter
- g. We had a Fire Drill, Oct 31st-all students and staff evacuated the building safely in 1 minute, 45 seconds
- h. We had our first Safety Drill on November 6th-Staff and Students did an amazing job. We received high accolades from Safety Resource Deputy Kieran Weed on our procedures and how silent the building was.
- i. All Saints Day mass, procession of Saints and middle school students presented their Saints projects. An awesome opportunity for all to shine, it is very clear a lot of work went into the Saint costumes and projects.

- j. Applied for a grant through Love One Another for science, math, updating some technology for religion, adding Catholic Themed/based libraries in classrooms and starting to update the PA/Intercom system.
- **Principals Report:**
 - a. We currently have 77 students in our building 3k through 8th grade, we had 96 students as of 8/30/2022.
 - b. After talking with the middle school staff we are looking at a science curriculum update as our current curriculum is designed for a year and we have been stretching it out. Also, an 8th grade specific math curriculum- would enable a true differentiation between grades and the opportunity to separate with larger classes in the future. A shift is going to happen away from “Journeys” per the publisher. We will be exploring options shortly, hoping to still utilize the different novels that are currently being used- however adding some different options when it comes to writing.
 - c. Staff changes/challenges: Mrs. Kathy Hansen has decided that she is not able to continue teaching chimes and band. Chimes is now being taught in music class to 4th and 5th grade. Have interviewed a candidate for the role. Need to follow up.

Review and Approve September Meeting Minutes: Approved

Parent/Parishioner Comments:

- a. Would like an update on how MAPS testing went and how our school scores are comparing to others. Anything we are learning holistically across the school; themes or actionable items?
- b. Have we had any new families touring, inquiries, potential new students?
- c. Can we review wellness days? Can we turn this into a Spring Break that is not over Easter Break? What would need to happen in order to achieve a Spring Break? Teachers do like splitting up the break a bit to help give kids a break throughout the year. Should we action having a small committee to brainstorm around this when we start the calendar for next year including a member or two from school commission?
- d. Concerns shared regarding lack of communication and responsiveness to concerns on staffing, curriculum, and extra curricular changes. Parents need to be informed timely and should not be finding out from children, Facebook, or weeks/months after a change has been made.

Pastoral Council: Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing

- a. Loretta provided summary of fundraiser survey. People want comradery and want to develop community within the church. Parish Council is looking into ways to facilitate this.
- b. Need to get younger families and school students more involved in parish fundraising and volunteering.

Committee Reports

- **Executive and Policy: Sarah Benike-Immel**
 - a. Welcome to Sarah Haubenschild and Libby Bonen!
 - b. Commission would like to meet monthly rather than every other month. Would propose alternating between in-person and virtual every other month. Commission unanimous vote to move to this setup.
 - c. Open positions long range planning, marketing, secretary, budget and fundraising.

- **Budget and Fundraising- Jenn Wilke – No Update**

- **Long Range Planning- Tim Reichelt – No Update**
 - a. We need to look into disaster recovery and documentation.

- **Marketing and Recruitment- Tim Reichelt: – No Update**

- **Home and School- Barb Grzywinski:**
 - a. Seroogys candy bar sale profit of \$3760, which was more than last year
 - b. Grandparents day, Trunk or Treat, and Donuts with Dad all went really well
 - c. Bookfair took in \$1600, which is barely enough to continue the bookfair next fall. Spring bookfair will not be happening because we did not profit enough last Spring. Looking into alternative options other than Scholastic.
 - d. Parent Teacher Conference Meals went well. For next Fall we will do breakfast/snacks on Friday instead of lunch.
 - e. Pointsettia sale starts this week, 11/10.
 - f. Working on 12 days of Christmas.

Next Meeting: January 9, 2023

Tentative Future Meeting Dates:

March 12, 2024

May 14, 2024