

School Commission Minutes – Mar 2, 2021 @ 6:00pm

Shepherd of the Hills- Coffee House

Present: Libby Bonen, Barb Welsh, Chris Gellings, Andrea Gade, Ron Smyczek (Principal), Sarah Benike-Immel, Nici Colwin, Robb Holden, Karen Kutka

Absent: Barb Grzywinski, John Laughrin, Jen Wilke

Opening Prayer

The Second Week of Lent: Tuesday

God in heaven and in my life, guide me and protect me.

I so often believe I can save myself and I always end in failure.

Lead me with your love away from harm and guide me on the right path.

May your Spirit inspire the Church and make us an instrument of your love and guidance.

Thank you for your care for me. Amen.

Mission Statement

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

2020-2021 Theme: Faith over Fear

Today, with your help, no matter what I face, I will let faith and trust be my first response, instead of worry and fear. Help me to always remember, Faith over Fear. Amen.

School Reports - Ron Smyczek (Nici Colwin, Robb Holden, Karen Kutka)

1. School Good News

- a. 86 students- 1st grade (2 new) and JK3 (1)
- b. Catholic Schools Week last week of January included spirit days and coincided with marketing campaigns to help tell our story.
- c. School Auction Success
- d. 8th grade retreat held last week
 - i. Reflect on goals for end of time at Shepherd of the Hills and look ahead to high school
- e. Pizza lunch for Christmas Choir Sunny 97.7 Christmas Idol winnings

2. Principals Report:

- a. COVID Vaccinations Friday, March 5 with second dose right before Easter
- b. 2021-22 Preschool
 - i. 4K - Half and Full day options, both 5 days per week for 2021-22 (Cori Knuth)
 - ii. 3K- 3 or 5 Half days (with pm Child Care)

- c. School Calendar 2021-22 will be released shortly
- d. Grant workshops on school safety and mental health being completed now
- e. Computers finally arrived
- f. More Grants to chase
- g. Re-enrollment went home 3/1 with due date of 3/15 to assess staffing and class sizes for next year
- h. May events- outdoors? Celebrate 8th grade and 7th grade ascending
- i. Looking at totality of year at Shepherd and determine points of emphasis
 - i. 20-21: COVID, PowerSchool, Standards-Based Grading
 - ii. Effectiveness- School Culture, Spiritual and Academic Growth
- j. Iowa basic testing has started. They are online this year. Off to a good start. Hoping to utilize the results a bit better given online format.

Business Reports

- 3. Review and Approve January Meeting Minutes:** Approved
- 4. Parent/Parishioner Comments:** None
- 5. Pastoral Council:** Reached out to Tim Hanlon twice with no response. Libby reached out to Sandra Gitter to email list of Pastoral Council members to determine who is the correct liaison. Ron to follow up with Father Mark.

Committee Reports

- 6. Executive and Policy:**
 - a. Recruitment continues for School Commission Secretary. Put an announcement in the school newsletter. Maybe target a new family for participation? Sarah reach out to Becky Pauscha to see if she's interested.
 - b. Actions for Trent's Greenhouse? Will we move this forward? What do we need?
 - i. Heather Coughlin has talked with faculty about what we would need to utilize it.
 - ii. Do we need to get a committee organized to move this forward and execute a plan? Need a leader. Could we find a 4H club or FFA club that is willing to help?
 - iii. Dinner Auction committee had committed to \$1000 per year of FUNDA to help support in future.
 - c. Applied for Exemplary Status as part of accreditation last year and did not get it. Ron to follow up with other schools on how we might achieve this.

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

- a. Dinner Auction meal was a huge success. Sold 262 meals vs the traditional ~200 dinner auction tickets. Raised about \$3000. Should look to do **another Dinner fundraiser** before end of year to raise money for the school. Need maybe 10 volunteers or so. Potential to get 8th grade involved as their final service project.
- b. Waiting for final dinner auction numbers but believe we will be ~\$50K plus FUNDA. This was good and we didn't miss prior years by much.
- c. Will be looking at options for next year's auction. Do we keep virtual bidding?

8. Long Range Planning- Chris Gellings:

- a. Technology and Curricular choices

9. Marketing and Recruitment- Andrea Gade:

- a. Radio Ads on Sunny 97.7 started during Catholic Schools Week
- b. Video Ad on Facebook
- c. Early Childhood Meeting, Thur, March 4, 6:30 pm
- d. Re-enrollment contracts out
- e. Connect with parish children by sending birthday cards - Mary Bowe
- f. Next meeting: TBD

10. Home and School- Barb Grzywinski:

- a. Jan 20, 2021-6pm Coffee House
- b. Present: Betsey Gitter, Colleen Ruplinger, Barb Grzywinski, Ron Smyczek, Sarah Benike-Immel
- c. 12 days of Christmas teacher appreciation
- d. Catholic Schools week (Feb 1-5)
- e. Grandparents Day - Virtual. Recording to send to grandparents.
- f. Parent Teacher Conference- Feb 11
- g. Spring Events: Adopt a Highway, May Crowning, Graduation, and transitions
- h. Next Meeting: Wed March 10, 6:00pm, Coffee House

Next Meeting: Tues, May 4, 2021 @ 6:00 pm (Year in Review & 21-22 Thoughts)
 SOTH Coffee House
 Agenda: Dress Code May Review