

School Commission

Meeting 12/3/15

Attendance:

George Hofbauer, Christy Tobin-Presser, Brett Conway, Joellyn DeRonghe, Brendan Kolding, Mark Golubiec, Pat Galvin, Kevin McMahan, Mary Moan, Terry Burns, Mike Curran, Sarah Katsandres, Ken Tews, Maritherese Thomas

Guests: Michele Defeo, Mary Corrigan, Mary Jo McFaul

Meeting came to order at 6:10

Opening Prayer was led by Brendan Kolding

Minutes from the November meeting were approved unanimously without changes

ITBS Testing Presentation from Middle School Faculty

Michele Defeo and Mary Corrigan gave an overview of the ITBS test.

Mary Corrigan provided an overview of the testing methodology and how the scores should be interpreted and how the teachers utilize the scores.

Michelle Defeo provided an overview of the 7th and 8th grade scores and of the ways that the teachers have adjusted the curriculum based on the test scores.

It was discussed to put some of the comparative test scores on the web site to demonstrate the quality of education. Statistics that compare HRS to the archdiocese or specific schools should not be published.

Pastor's Report

Brett provided an update from Fr. Oakland about the principal search which will be in the eFC and start in the spring. Fr. offered thoughts on how celebrate the Advent season and not just Christmas

Principal Report

George Hofbauer provided an update

- Confessions for the children will be going on next week
- Pope's proclamation for 2016 is called Year of Mercy
- Report cards are next week
- Holy Rosary in once again participating in the food drive during the holidays
- This is the season for application for high schools
- Chromebooks for 5,6 and 7th grades are on the way
- Staff Morale is high as evidence by feedback from the staff interviews
- George has been doing some crisis management simulations with the staff

Development Update

Terry Burns provided a development update

- Annual Fund is behind last year
- All Parish Mailing going out on Catholic School Week.
- Tree Lot sales are up over last year. Tree lot is focused on profitability and closing on 13th which is relatively early so then can sell trees at full price.
- Tree Lot Blessing and Festival is on Saturday after 5PM mass which was a huge success last year.
- Capital Campaign is still getting more funds.
- Auction has new procurement chair and new software; this year's theme is Disco.
- Grant writing committee got \$25K and has more grants pending
- Magazine Drive finished ahead of budget

Finance Committee – Tuition Recommendation

- Mark Golubiec presented the recommendation for tuition for 2016/17 school year of 3% for out of parish and 6% for in parish
- Strategic Plan had been published with a range of 2-3% for out of parish students and 5-6% increase for in parish students
- The current year enrollment drop is expected to be similar next year which will create some budget challenges for next year.
- Given some estate funds for next year, some large costs in the current year that won't be needed next year (textbooks, Chromebooks, sewer repair) and a new principal coming in next year, the recommendation was to not have a large tuition increase on the heels of the large tuition increase from last year and to stick to the Strategic Plan.
- The tuition for multi child families that had been increasing at a faster rate in past years than single child families; it was recommended to increase the tuition for all families at the same rate across the board.
- The recommendation for the tuition increases of 3% for out of parish and 6% for in parish was approved unanimously and Fr. Oakland had noted his support for the recommendation prior to the meeting.

Communication Committee

- Sarah provided an update on the tag lines and web site updates that can be focused on promoting the school and increasing enrollment;
- Social Media is becoming more regular with Brendan's help; members attended a conference on social media best practices.
- SC members are encouraged to link postings on Facebook to the school to enable greater penetration of the West Seattle community

Teacher interviews

- Goal is to get them done by end of December and sent to Brett
- Mike Curran will help Marithereese Thomas synthesize the commentary

Open Discussion

- Brett brought up renewing a credit for current families when they refer a new family to the school. The Credit will be offered again this year. No credits were given out last year.

- Kevin brought up about the enrollment issue and how well it is known in the community in order to bring awareness to the parents about the enrollment issue

Development Committee

Terry Burns is stepping down from the Development Committee

- A motion to have the committee go dormant did not get a second and did not proceed to a vote
- George thinks there needs to have a development committee to help raise funds
- A motion to have the development committee continue with renewed focus was passed 12 in favor with one abstention

New business

Mike Curran put forth an idea to have a Craig's list type of site that would kick back 10% of sale proceeds for HRS. He will flesh out the proposal and bring back to the commission.

Closing Prayer was led by Maritherese Thomas

Meeting adjourned at 8:05