

School Commission Meeting

November 3rd, 2016

6:00 PM

Present: Christy Tobin-Presser, Mike Curran, Brendan Kolding, Mary Moan, Anna Horton, Jodie Underwood, Amanda Roberts, Brett Conway, Tara Martin, Pat Galvin, Beth Martin, Julie Leonardo, Mary Ann Fessler, Kevin McMahon, Ben Gauyan, Andrea Geraghty, Sarah Katsandres, Fr. Matthew Oakland, Joellynn DeRonghe

Absent: Bill Skibitzke, Terry Burns

Opening Prayer

Fr. Oakland led the Commission in the opening prayer.

Approval of October Minutes

The October minutes were deemed approved.

Development Report

Beth Martin reported that the School reached its goal of \$125,000 in sales for the magazine drive. Holy Rosary will net approximately \$65,000. 92% of families participated, and 112 kids earned a trip to the Family Fun Center.

160 families have responded to the Annual Fund, and almost \$100,000 has been pledged.

Holy Rosary has applied to the Fulcrum Foundation for a \$50,000 School Partnership Grant. These funds would go toward the new fire alarm system.

The Auction Committee is considering holding the auction at the Rainier Golf & Country Club. The School Commission discussed various ideas including having the silent auction on a different date and/or moving the silent auction entirely online.

Pastor's Report

A group of alumni from the 40s, 50s and 60s held a reunion on campus today. Fr. Oakland emphasized to the Commission that it is important to remember our history as we move forward.

Principal's Report

Principal Horton reported that the School has contracted with a firm to design the new fire alarm system. Once this design is complete, it will go out for bidding.

Archdiocese Assistant Superintendent Kristin Dixon will receive the draft of the accreditation self-study report this week. Once she provides her feedback, a final draft will be sent to the accreditation team chair next week. From there, the School will work to schedule the team's visit and collect evidence that the School is making progress towards meeting its goals.

Principal Horton passed out three new marketing pieces that the School has created with the involvement of the Communications Committee: a car decal, a mini version of the "At-a-Glance," and an updated preschool brochure.

Enrollment/Marketing Report

Principal Horton reported that the online application went live ten days ago. The School has already received 22 applications online, and two on paper. Between pre-K families who have indicated that they will be enrolling in kindergarten and new families who have applied, the estimate is that 28 seats in next year's kindergarten classes are already filled. Contracts will soon go out to new families, with a registration fee of \$300.

The School hosted pre-school trick-or-treating last Friday. 15 families who are not currently enrolled at the School attended.

Holy Rosary was one of only two schools to have a booth at the West Seattle Junction Harvest Fest.

Parents' Club Report

Joellyn DeRonghe reported that the next meeting has been moved to Thursday, 11/17, so as to not conflict with the presidential election. There will be a speaker to discuss nutrition. Due to lack of parent volunteers, BASE will provide the childcare.

Financial Report

Tara Martin presented key points with respect to the budget.

Update on Progress of Committee Goals

Emergency Preparedness Committee

Jodie Underwood reported that the Committee has made significant progress with its revisions to the School's Emergency Manual. The Committee continues to explore options for enhancing

security at the access points of the School. Potential staff training was discussed, as was the potential for presenting earthquake preparedness information to parents at a Parents Club meeting.

Communications Committee

Brendan Kolding presented his research on Remind 101, a free mass-texting service for communicating with the parent community. The Committee is still looking into options for the School to make a video. Sarah Katsandres suggested reviving efforts to start an alumni relations program. Brett Conway is working to facilitate updates to the website with a primary focus on providing information to prospective parents.

Catholic Identity Committee

Amanda Roberts reported that the Committee's goal of involving the School in coffee and donuts is underway. The Committee is planning a community event for the second half of the school year (a February blood drive is the top choice). The Committee also plans to oversee a pre-graduation pancake breakfast for the Parish hosted by the 8th graders.

Hours

Mike Curran reported that the Committee intends to survey parents to get feedback about the School's commitment hours program. The Committee is researching alternatives to the current online tracking system. Another focus is the efficacy of how hours are used. The Committee will consider the financial impact of options that parents have for fundraising hours along with the potential that these events have to create good will within the community.

Building & Grounds Committee

Pat Galvin reported that the fire alarm and light pole are top priorities. There is no specific date as to when the light pole will be installed, but it appears imminent. The juniper bush in front of the preschool window will soon be removed in order to discourage people from camping there overnight. (This has been an issue on a couple of occasions.) The Committee is considering doing a walk-through of the School and Paris grounds to identify other needs.

Topics for Discussion

The Commission discussed the idea of altering the start and end times of the school day to mitigate traffic congestion due to having the same times as Hope Lutheran.

While some parents would prefer that there was not early dismissal on Wednesdays, however, Principal Horton explained that this is valuable time for collaborative development by the staff. Potential alternatives were discussed.

The Commission discussed the benefits of continuing the formal discussions between School Commission members and faculty and staff. The general consensus was to only do them every other year and to interview parents this year. Each member was asked to think of a question to include in a parent survey and bring it to the December meeting.

The School Commission discussed potentially reaching out to families that have not contributed to the Annual Fund and recognized the importance of 100% Commission participation before Commission outreach can occur.

Closing Prayer

Julie Leonardo led the Commission in the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned.

NOTE: This was an open meeting. One parent who is not on the School Commission attended.