

School Commission Meeting

February 2nd, 2017

6:00 PM

Present: Christy Tobin-Presser, Brendan Kolding, Fr. Matthew Oakland, Brett Conway, Tara Martin, Pat Galvin, Kevin McMahon, Sarah Katsandres, Joellynn DeRonghe, Bill Skibitzke, Terry Burns, Mary Moan, Amanda Roberts, Ben Gauyan, Anna Horton, Dino Annest, Mary Ann Fessler, Mike Curran, Jodie Underwood

Absent: Julie Leonardo, Andrea Geraghty

Opening Prayer

Fr. Oakland led the Commission in the opening prayer.

Approval of January Minutes

The January minutes were deemed approved.

Pastor's Report

This is Catholic Schools Week. Fr. Oakland reflected on how much the world has changed since Holy Rosary School opened in 1913. The one constant has been the school's mission to form disciples of Christ, and this is something that we will carry forward.

Principal's Report

Principal Horton reported that the Open House was well-attended and busier than years past.

The school will be going forward with a two-year-olds' class next year. The break-even point will be six students, and the cap will be ten. Next year, the school will re-evaluate to determine if this is a feasible program to continue. A major selling point will be that no other Catholic school in West Seattle currently has a program for two-year-olds.

The accreditation team pre-visit will be next week.

Principal Horton passed out the five questions that she has selected for Commission members to ask parents. At the next Commission meeting, she will assign each Commission member two families to interview.

Development Report

Principal Horton reported that \$145,000 has been pledged to the Annual Fund, of which \$101,000 has been collected. The Christmas Tree Lot raised \$91,000, and a conservative estimate of the net is \$40,000. There were 265 attendees at Grandparents' Day, and the event raised approximately \$2,000. 385 items have been donated to the auction, and fewer than ten families have not donated. The fund-an-item at the auction will be school safety and security (fire alarm system, etc.)

Enrollment/Marketing Report

Principal Horton informed the Commission that 49 families have been accepted for next year's kindergarten class. 33 of these families have already registered, and 38 have signed-up for the kindergarten assessment. Overall, the school has received 84 applications. Of the families who have applied, 22 are new to the school. The 3s/4s class (preschool) currently has a wait list. Several families are considering transferring in to Holy Rosary before the end of the school year. Feedback about the new online registration system has been overwhelmingly positive.

Financial Report

Tara Martin presented key points with respect to the budget. Due to several positive developments that have been realized over the course of the year, the school will reduce the amount of withdrawal from the endowment interest from \$62,000 to \$25,000. This will allow the Endowment Committee to reinvest an extra \$37,000.

Parents' Club Report

Joellynn DeRonghe reported that over 70 parents attended the January Parents' Club meeting. Father-Daughter Glow Bowl is coming up. The next Parents' Club meeting is March 7th, and will feature an update on emergency planning.

Update on Progress of Committee Goals

Committee updates were distributed via e-mail prior to the meeting. Key points:

- The parish has received the design for the fire alarm system that would include the school, gym and parish center.
- Building and Grounds is looking into the possibility of making the playground woodchip replacement an Eagle Scout project.
- The marketing video was shot on January 27th.
- Work on revising the website continues.

Topics for Discussion

Christy Tobin-Presser distributed a quiz that was presented at an Archdiocese seminar on school commissions and parents' clubs. Commission members took the quiz and then discussed the Archdiocese expectations and standards. A key takeaway is that we need to enhance the School Commission bylaws.

Christy led a brief discussion of recruitment of new Commission members for next year.

Mike Curran reported that a parent is interested in spearheading a SCRIP program. The plan is to do some more research and start a program in September.

Closing Prayer

Terry Burns led the Commission in the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned.