

School Commission Meeting

March 2nd, 2017

6:00 PM

Present: Christy Tobin-Presser, Mike Curran, Brendan Kolding, Fr. Matthew Oakland, 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, Jodie Underwood, Julie Leonardo, Jennifer Kokkonis, Beth Martin

Absent: Brett Conway, Andrea Geraghty

Opening Prayer

Fr. Oakland led the Commission in the opening prayer.

Approval of February Minutes

The February minutes were deemed approved.

Pastor's Report

Fr. Oakland discussed Lent. The family is the domestic church, and parents should seek to place Christ at the center of the family. Lent is a good time for families to slow down and simplify their lives and to strive to grow closer to Christ together. We must encourage our children to understand that Christ is the gift of the Lenten season, and to learn the meaning of fasting, sacrifice and abstinence.

Principal's Report

Principal Horton reported that the accreditation process is currently at the stage of logistics planning and evidence gathering. A group of approximately 25 parents (including several members of the School Commission) will meet with the accreditation team on Monday, March 20th.

Principal Horton has started to work with the Finance Committee to develop next year's budget. She has met with all 45 families who have requested financial aid for next school year. The total amount of aid granted will be approximately the same as this year, spread across more families.

Principal Horton visited St. Monica School on Mercer Island to review their STEM program. She recently met with a playground company about replacing the tires on the playground. The school is looking at updating the Religion curriculum for next year.

Development Report

Beth Martin reported that Grandparents' Lunch made approximately \$4,600. 500 items and \$120,000 have been procured for the auction. The online auction will commence on March 15th. So far, 106 out of the 250 tickets to the live auction have been sold. Beth is looking for a new chair or co-chairs for the magazine drive, hopefully making at least a two-year commitment. Each of the three tree lot charities will soon receive a check for \$2,200.

Enrollment/Marketing Report

Jennifer Kokkonis informed the Commission that 391 students have re-enrolled for next year. This amounts to more than 99% of the students who are not graduating. The upcoming kindergarten class is at capacity with 51 students (approximately one-third of whom are out-of-parish,) and there is already a wait list. The new two-year-olds class has five students enrolled. The 452 students that are enrolled for next year equals seven more than the current enrollment.

Jennifer will start to focus more on building up the parent ambassador program.

Financial Report

Tara Martin reported that the school's finances are tracking well. The higher-than-anticipated enrollment combined with lower-than-anticipated benefits costs for next year indicates that the 2017-2018 budget should balance.

Parents' Club Report

Joellynn DeRonghe reported that the March 7th Parents' Club meeting will feature an expert on self-soothing methods for children. Dino Annest reported that the plan for next year is to have one meeting be an open forum for parents.

Update on Progress of Committee Goals

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

- To date, 3rd grade, 7th grade and kindergarten have hosted coffee and donuts after Sunday Mass.
- The first annual blood drive will be held on Monday, 05/22 from 2:00 and 7:00 in the school hall. The goal is to have at least 30 donors.
- The dates for the 8th grade-hosted pancake breakfast for the parish have been narrowed down to 04/02 and 04/30.

- Work on revising the website continues. The first version has been presented to Principal Horton, Fr. Oakland and Jennifer Kokkonis for review.
- The marketing video should go live in approximately a week.
- Communications has a goal to revise the eFC for fall 2017. The intent is to move to an e-mail program with more functionality and formatting capabilities.
- Hours has determined that, for \$539 a year, the school can subscribe to Sign-Up Genius and have one centralized place for families to sign-up for and log their commitment hours. However, at that price families would not be able to view the total amount of hours that they have completed over the course of the year. This is a significant concern to the School Commission, and we will revisit this issue in April. Principal Horton will query the deanery to see how other schools manage their hours programs.

Topics for Discussion

Mike Curran and Ally Aldrey presented on their research into starting a scrip program. They have been in touch with St. Francis School in Burien. St. Francis has about the same number of families as Holy Rosary, and they expect to make approximately \$90,000 from scrip this year. The school does a lot to promote the program, and sells the cards three times a week (once after Mass and twice after school.) Parents can also order scrip online. Mike suggest beta testing the program next year, with a reasonable goal of earning \$10,000. This program may eventually phase out the magazine drive. The School Commission is supportive of this idea, and will discuss it further in future meetings.

Brendan Kolding has expressed an interest in serving as vice-president next year. Anyone who will be returning to the School Commission next year can be nominated for the positions of vice-president and secretary.

Closing Prayer

Mary Ann Fessler led the Commission in the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned.

NOTE: This was the second open meeting of the school year. Five parents who are not on the School Commission attended.