

School Commission (SC) Meeting
November 7, 2019
6:00 PM

Present: Karin Hansen, Elena Gruner, Barbara Spiering, Jackie Bryan, Alison Morton, Dino Annest, Ben Gauyan, Beth Martin, Anna Horton, Sara Volta, Molly Ward, Mary Ann Fessler, Fr. Oakland, Karl Mowat, Jennifer Wong, Martina Phelps, Jason Kadushin, Michele Zinski, Ted Krembs (Ex Officio from Parish)

Absent: Tara Martin, Jennifer Kokkonis, Rebecca Lawrence

Opening Prayer

Father Oakland led the School Commission in the opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes

The October minutes were deemed approved.

Pastor's Report

The month began with All Saint's day with the 4th graders dressing up to celebrate. We should all celebrate the Saints in our lives.

The annual stewardship drive kicks off in the next few weeks. Everyone who has parish tuition is expected to participate. We end the month with the Thanksgiving holiday - How do we live Thanksgiving every day in our lives?

Principal's Report

Conferences are coming up the week of Thanksgiving. Please sign up and, wherever possible, keep within the conference week schedule.

Financials are tracking to forecast – the December meeting will be focused on a deep dive of financials and next year's tuition recommendation.

The first Prayer Service tomorrow will be led by 3A in recognition of Veteran's Day. Prayer Services are scheduled in advance and there was a request to add to the School Calendar so we can know what class is leading when.

Development Report

Committee meetings were held this week for the Tree Lot, Grandparents Lunch and Auction.

Christmas Tree Lot - There will be a slight price increase due to the increase in tree prices. The lot will open the day after Thanksgiving and close Dec 21. Due to the late date, we may not be able to return unsold trees. We will adjust ordering accordingly. \$5 off coupons will again be provided to families and to CYO Schools playing basketball. Sign up to volunteer is in the EFC.

Grandparents Lunch - Grandparents will be RSVP'ing through a web form to signal intent to attend. We will send a physical invite if there is no email available but would prefer to move as much as possible to a digital format. The lunch will be the last Wednesday of Catholic Schools Week and will have the same format as last year.

Auction – The auction will be held March 14. In the EFC today there was a poll to choose a theme. There were 3 to choose from: Cocktail Attire, Hawaiian / Margaritaville, March Madness. Next week we will send the family donation link out via EFC, email blast and hard paper copy with a due date of Dec 13. A \$50 late fee will be charged if donations are not in on time.

Enrollment/Marketing Report

We had a great open house with 30 families attending and 3 applications submitted that day. The Greater Middle School night is this Tuesday.

Priority Day for enrollment is November 15. We are very confident that the Kindergarten class will be full next year.

Financial Report

No financial report was reviewed this month.

Parents' Club Report

Nothing new to report since the last School Commission update. The answer to the question on "Why is there no Lego robotics?" is that it was not offered due to lack of a parent volunteer.

Open Discussion

Security during Mass – Open discussion on the protocols around security during school mass. The topic has been addressed as part of the Safety Committee for any issues that happen in the school, but not if something happens in the church. The new direction for teachers is Run / Hide / Fight - teachers must make decisions in the moment based on what is going on. If they can get your kids safely out of the building, they will...if not, students will stay in place and hide.

During school mass, there are staff stationed at the doors. Mr. Mohrbacher and Mrs. McFaul stand on both sides of the front doors and Principal Horton stands where she can see the side door. If an evacuation is needed from the church (for security or an earthquake), then the nearest adult will intervene and teachers will help everyone else to get out.

Bylaws – The most recent version of the School Commission Bylaws were distributed for review. The mission of the School Commission is as follows:

The Holy Rosary School Commission is an advisory body that assists the pastor and principal in policy development and long-range planning for Holy Rosary School, as a ministry of Holy Rosary Parish.

Bylaws cover Purpose and Responsibilities; Membership and Relationships to other governing bodies; Ethics; and Meetings. The School Commission acts in support of the School's Strategic Plan. While the requested term for at large commission members is 4 years, terms of 3 years will be allowed to accommodate members who join with older students. The goal is to ensure continuity of members year over year.

Open discussion was held on the role of Voting for members if the ultimate decision-making responsibility lies with pastor and principal. While any voting is non-binding, it does signal the consensus of the school community at large.

A redline of draft bylaws will be circulated with a goal of approving the revisions at the December School Commission meeting.

Scrip – A strong effort was made two years ago to launch a Scrip program, but we have failed to have sustained momentum. Our current PrestoPay program must be 85% Volunteer Run, with the 15% School led work being focused on reconciliation. Schools that have successful programs have someone running their Scrip program full time. After discussion on what it would take to have a successful Scrip program at HRS, Alison Morton moved to discontinue the Scrip program. Jennifer Wong provided a second. The vote passed unanimously to discontinue our Scrip program once the remaining Grocery Cards have run out.

School Commission members spend the remaining meeting time working on their sub-committees.

Closing Prayer

Dino Annest led the School Commission in the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55.