

School Commission (SC) Meeting
August 6, 2020
6:00 PM

Present: Elena Gruner, Sara Volta, Barbara Spiering, Tara Charf, Dino Annest, Jackie Bryan, Jason Kadushin, Alison Morton, Karl Mowat, Molly Ward, Jennifer Wong, Erin Cassidy, Stephanie Combes, Greg Topf, Renee Kurdzos, Lori Ho, Karin Hansen, Fr. Oakland, Anna Horton, Jennifer Kokkonis, Beth Martin, Rebecca Lawrence, Cheryl Benetti, Jill Carr

Absent: Michele Zinski

New members Erin Cassidy, Stephanie Combes, Renee Kurdzos, Greg Topf were welcomed to the school commission. We also want to thank retiring School Commission members Mary Ann Fessler and Ben Gauyan for their years of service.

Our new president for School Commission this year is Elena Gruner, with Sara Volta serving as Vice President.

Rebecca Lawrence is the new president of Parent's Club, and Cheryl Binetti is Vice President.

SC 2020/2021 meeting dates are:

- October 8, 2020
- November 5, 2020
- December 10, 2020
- January 7, 2021
- February 4, 2021
- March 4, 2021
- April 15, 2021
- May 6, 2021
- June TBD, 2021

Opening Prayer

Father Oakland led the School Commission in the opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes

The May minutes were deemed approved.

Pastor's Report

This has been, and will be, an unprecedented year in so many ways. Thank you to Principal Horton for all she has done this summer to support the school and navigate these complex times so we can have a successful fall.

On June 21, the Parish was reopened for mass when we transitioned to phase 2. Tonight, our focus is addressing all that has been in the news and on planning for the year ahead.

Principal's Report

We had a group of teachers and staff that worked over the summer to write a re-opening plan, a remote plan, and in between to ensure the staff was ready to go for all contingencies. We are moving forward with plans to re-open to ensure, once we can, that we are ready to go, for example measuring the square footage of each classroom to figure out how to social distance the students.

After receiving Governor Inslee's guidance, all Level 1 Catholic schools will be starting remote.

King County continues to experience high COVID activity levels. We will need to be in phase two for two weeks to make a transition to on-site learning – one full cycle. As we transition to Moderate, there will be a phased in approach with the youngest kids coming back first. Schools are looking for guidance on the appropriate size of a cohort since that will determine what the transition plan would look like and may cause constraints with space available for students.

There will likely be a pause on starting Preschool 2s classes. The first day of school K-8 remains 8/31 with 1:1 or small groups meetings during that week with teachers to get to know the teacher, build a relationship and obtain supplies. There will be a sign up for this similar to conferences. In lieu of the traditional first week of school open house, all relevant details will be shared with families during the small group meetings. Additional tech is on order.

Live instruction begins 9/8 at 8:30 am. A remote start post Labor Day should not impact our last day of school.

Themes we heard from the survey:

- Consistent schedule; more direct teaching
- Schoolwide lunch hour
- Teacher office hours
- Specialist classes
- More small group opportunities
- Post assignments the night before or weekly

Principal Horton reviewed the general framework for the daily schedule, taking the above into consideration.

We are still moving forward with adoption of new Spanish instructions for grades 5-8. The band program is run through Kennedy HS and there is an outstanding question to Kennedy on what the plan is for band going forward. All teachers will prioritize teaching to the essential standards in the remote learning environment. November conferences will be held as usual, planning TBD.

Remote Learning expectations for Students, Parents and staff were reviewed. Because of time online during the day, there will be a focus on limiting additional homework after hours.

We are implementing ALMA as the new Student Information system. Families should all have already set up accounts as part of registration.

This planning took a lot of work! The school commission is **very grateful** to all the staff that worked on pulling this together.

There are still discussions about how to connect the 8th graders with their Kindergarten buddies. This is a cherished relationship for both sides.

HRS will not be participating in CYO athletics this fall to minimize risk to students and families. As we have an opportunity to head back to school, when/if/how to re-engage with CYO will be assessed.

Enrollment/Marketing Report

We ended last year with 504 students, including preschool. We are 498 heading into this year. We have about 10% attrition K-8 but also had a large number of families apply. Some families that applied, upon hearing that we are starting remotely, are now withdrawing. They were interested in in-person classes.

There are 23 new students, grades 1-8. Jennifer Kokkonis is trying to think of ways to build community, especially for the Kindergarten classes, since playdates are not happening. Kindergarten classes have many families with older children at HRS. There is a great opportunity here for Parent's Club to help build community for families.

Thank you to Jennifer Kokkonis for the outreach to the non-West Seattle families that will have to deal with the bridge closure so that, once the time comes, they can coordinate carpools.

Development Report

No financials to report since no fundraiser has occurred yet. There **will** be a magazine drive this year. We may change to a family structure instead of each child registering to sell.

The Christmas Tree Lot may need to be assessed as to how that will work as the situation develops. Families will still want trees and to celebrate Christmas!

In the September SC meeting, there will be a discussion on how / if to track parent volunteer hour commitments. Can we look for creative ways for parents to be involved to lead small groups?

Financial Report

Principal Horton provided an overview of the school finances.

We have 15 weeks operating budget in reserves. There are a lot of unknowns for this fiscal year which continues to make budgeting a challenge.

Parents' Club Report

No report for Parent's Club yet. The first Parent's Club meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2020.

Open Discussion

How do we as an HRS community lead by example during this time to ensure our students can get back to in-person schooling? Jason Kadushin will lead a small group to form a draft statement for broader School Commission review. The working group will include Stephanie Combes, Rebecca Lawrence, Karl Mowat, Cheryl Binetti and Barbara Spiering.

Closing Prayer

Elena Gruner led the School Commission in the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned.