

**School Commission (SC) Meeting**  
**October 8, 2020**  
**6:00 PM**

*Present:* Elena Gruner, Sara Volta, Barbara Spiering, Tara Charf, Dino Annest, Jason Kadushin, Alison Morton, Karl Mowat, Jennifer Wong, Erin Cassidy, Stephanie Combes, Greg Topf, Renee Kurdzos, Karin Hansen, Fr. Oakland, Anna Horton, Jennifer Kokkonis, Beth Martin, and Rebecca Lawrence

*Absent:* Jackie Bryan, Molly War, Lori Ho, Michele Zinski, Cheryl Benetti and Jill Carr

**Opening Prayer**

Father Oakland led the School Commission in the opening prayer.

**Approval of Minutes**

The September minutes were deemed approved as submitted.

**Pastor's Report**

This week is our patronage Feast of our Lady of the Rosary. Planning is ongoing for All Saint's Day in the middle of COVID. We remain together even when we are apart.

**Principal's Report**

Return to School – The Return to School plan is in today's EFC with K-1 returning 10/19/2020. We are all in this together. As King County numbers are continuing to climb, the challenge is there is not a lot of guidance being given. It is too early to know if this is the start of a second wave or just a blip related to the smoke. We have many staff that fall into the vulnerable category and Principal Horton and Farther Oakland are therefore trying to balance staff safety with student and family needs. This includes surveying families for intent to leverage BASE upon return to in person schooling. Based on results, we will hold off on opening BASE until the numbers are lower.

A form went home to K-1 families with details of the return plan and an ask to indicate intentions for their children to come back. We anticipate only 2-4 kids per grade to not come back based on trends.

At this time, children are intended to stay in their own class and the class will project on Zoom to students that remain at home. We need a better understanding of how many families will not have their children return to school before we can determine if there will be a teacher dedicated to a remote student class.

We understand that with multiple children in a family, dropping off one child when you have others at home can be difficult. While it would be easier to stay at home sometimes, we don't want our children to fall behind.

When 2<sup>nd</sup> grade returns, classes will be reconfigured to allow for a third teacher who will be brought on in preparation of spacing kids adequately.

The School Commission had significant discussion on how to support families during these times. We need to stop thinking about how we keep COVID out, but instead how we will manage it....It is not a question of if, but a question of when. The situation will continue to be fluid and the approach must adjust accordingly. School leadership understands there are families with Points of View on each side of the spectrum. We will follow public health recommendations, although those recommendations continue to be vague.

The SC recommended a supplemental communication addressing COVID specific questions such as status of ventilation in the gym/library, what to do with holiday travel, etc. School staff are not there to be in the role of enforcers, which means all should be clear on what the expectations and best practices are for the Holy Rosary community.

School Commission members will make themselves available to hear feedback and funnel that to Principal Horton and school leadership. Contact information for SC members will be made available in the EFC, in addition to possibly creating a COVID section of the HRS website so all information is in a single place.

### **Enrollment/Marketing Report**

Not much change to report, enrollment numbers stay consistent. We have decided to cancel the Open House that was scheduled for the end of the month. The fall open house is typically for families that have already applied but still want to visit the school. We currently have enough applications to fill our Kindergarten at 85%.

There is a hold on enrolling any students in the younger grades to ensure there is adequate room to socially distance for current students on return to in person learning. We will still have an open house in January with a focus on families who are interested in next year.

### **Development Report**

Magazine drive - we are halfway to our goal of \$125k; this is ahead of tracking to same time last year. HRS keeps 50% of sales and 100% of donations.

\$27,400 is in the annual fund. The Annual Report is currently with a graphic designer. This year we will not print the Annual Report for distribution and will instead distribute via EFC and publish online.

A soft launch for the Auction was held. There is an Amazon Wish List in time for Amazon Prime days. We are asking families not to contact any local businesses this year to be sensitive to the current financial situation. In lieu of that we will ask families to buy packages from local businesses to support them.

## **Financial Report**

Outlook for the school year was reviewed.

Fee income is above forecast overall: A \$73,000 decrease due to loss of income from BASE and Preschool was more than offset by other Income from Grants, PPP, IEDL, which was up \$443,000 vs original budget. BASE tuition remains a big unknown on how to forecast for the remainder of the year.

Total Expenses are down to forecast: Salaries is down due to no BASE and Preschool. Supplies are up for additional supplies to send things home, COVID related supplies.

This results in a net income after Depreciation of \$104k.

Teacher's salary increases are currently frozen with a plan to reassess mid-year. Tuition increase that we put in place last year was targeted to cover the teacher salary, but enrollment has dropped which complicates the matter. Future School Commission meetings will review administration recommendations.

Capital projects this year will include replacing the roof on Lanigan Gym. We have reserves set aside to pay for that expense with estimates running between \$300k - \$400K. The variance depends on if we do an overlay or a complete tear off and replacement.

## **Parents' Club Report**

Parent's Club topic for October is internet safety with SPD and our King County prosecutors.

## **Open Discussion**

Included in Principal's Report.

Questions arose regarding teacher morale. Like all of us, teachers are balancing work demands and home life. Staff is experiencing all levels of feelings depending on their home situation. It is hard to be online all day for children and adults alike.

## **Closing Prayer**

Jennifer Wong led the School Commission in the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned.