

School Commission (SC) Meeting
November 5, 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, Michele Zinski, Fr. Oakland, Anna Horton, Jennifer Kokkonis, Beth Martin

Absent: Rebecca Lawrence, Cheryl Benetti, Jill Carr

Opening Prayer

Father Oakland led the School Commission in the opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes

The October minutes were deemed approved.

Pastor's Report

We are continuing to adapt to evolving policy. One highlight, however, was joining with the 4th graders for All Saints Day as they dressed up as the Saints - role models for the pathways to Heaven.

Principal's Report

Students have finished the first round of MAP testing and scores will be sent home in early Dec with report cards (Mid-Trimester report cards were just sent home). The results will be compared with pre-COVID data. Remote conferences sign-up went out in today's EFC.

A letter has also been included in the EFC explaining how return to school decisions are being made. Principal Horton has a strong community of other principals and staff to get input from along with leveraging the King County Health Dept. Ongoing discussions have centered around mental health support for children as well as how to get King County into the moderate range so students can return to the classroom. Remote instructions, social and emotional health is a struggle for many students. Principal Horton is pondering how / when grades 3 and 4 should return and looking at ways to bring older students onto campus in December for things like retreats or church. It is becoming difficult to do long-term planning and give parents enough notice to react.

Not many schools are currently open in Washington State. There is recognition that what is happening in community transmission rates will be mirrored in our school, and all zip codes in West Seattle are solidly in the High range. Currently Washington is experience increases in all age groups. The working assumption is kids under 10 are less likely to transmit and less susceptible to infection. Ages 10-19 may be less susceptible than adults but transmit like adults. When transmission rates are high it does cause concern for staff members. Parental feedback runs the range of "all back on campus" to "all remote".

The bottom line is it **does** appear that we can have kids safely in school with countermeasures and when community transmission is under control. There have been no large outbreaks in Washington schools that are open. The definition of an outbreak is 2+ infections on your campus and an outbreak will result in a full campus wide closure. Today, HRS has approximately 180 people on campus between students and staff. We have a small campus and remaining in a cohort at recess is difficult. However, we are confident once we have kids on campus, our experience has taught us a lot and we will be ready.

Enrollment/Marketing Report

Current enrollment is 473 students. There has been no change in preschool numbers, but a decrease of 5 students since the last School Commission and 1 new student has enrolled. While many families are grateful for in person learning, there have been challenges. 86% of families in Kindergarten chose to send students back in person, 63% in 1st grade, and 86% in 2nd grade. Teachers are balancing serving needs of in person and remote students, but it is not easy. We have applications to fill 90% of the Kindergarten spaces for next year.

Open discussion on ideas for ways to give teachers a break from staring at the screen all day, such as creating things that are learning oriented without putting a big planning burden on teachers. Can we create PE in a way that makes screen PE optional and putting it in the hand of the parents? Parents can reach out to Ms. Sutherland.

Words of gratitude are a great way to help teachers.

Development Report

The Magazine Drive is over for another year. We raised \$115k of which our net is \$62k, surpassing our budget number and putting us on par with last year.

The Annual Fund is at almost \$50k, tracking to last year's pace. The Annual Report is complete and currently with the graphic designer in preparation of posting.

Auction – Dec 4 is the final for families to have all auction donations submitted. An E-Blast will go out tomorrow and as well as an update in the EFC. In considerations of the current environment, we are asking people not to ask local businesses for donations and instead purchase items directly from those business. It is our turn now to support them. We are encouraging people to actually donate items this year in lieu of cash donations, and to assist with that an Amazon wish list is out there for families to purchase from during Thanksgiving week and take advantages of Black Friday sales.

Tree Lot – signups are out and going slow. The decision has already been made to cut lot hours to Wed – Sun and they may be cut back further. The Tree Lot will offer delivery for a fee as a fundraiser for the 8th grade class and will partner with Alki Lumber to deliver. We will also let families drive through, lot attendees will grab 3 tree of customer's variety choice and customers can pick one. 7th grade can volunteer with a parent but are not required to do hours.

Financial Report

No new updates for financials. October actuals have come in but did not change forecast.

Parents' Club Report

No Parent's Club report.

Open Discussion

Alumni Report – Focus is on getting the Facebook group up with postings, trying to build that community. The committee is setting a goal for reaching out with at least 1 letter to alumni. In the future there may be a party by “time frame” but that is a long-term plan for when we can get back together.

Closing Prayer

Renee Kurdzos led the School Commission in the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.