

School Commission (SC) Meeting
March 4, 2021
6:00 PM

Present: Elena Gruner, Sara Volta, Barbara Spiering, Tara Charf, Jason Kadushin, Alison Morton, Karl Mowat, Stephanie Combes, Greg Topf, Renee Kurdzos, Lori Ho, Michele Zinski, Fr. Oakland, Anna Horton, Beth Martin,

Absent: Jackie Bryan, Jennifer Kokkonis, Dino Anest, Molly Ward, Jennifer Wong, Erin Cassidy, Karin Hansen, Rebecca Lawrence, Cheryl Benetti, Jill Carr

Opening Prayer

Principal Horton led the School Commission in the opening prayer addressing racial equality.

Approval of Minutes

Since there was not a quorum attending, approval of the minutes is deferred to the April meeting.

Pastor's Report

During Ash Wednesday, it was great to see some of our Senior parishioners come back as they are vaccinated. Easter is coming up, sign up is posted online to attend mass. We will have 2 sessions for Confirmation this year to ensure there is space for all families and their sponsors.

Principal's Report

Teachers are now prioritized for vaccinations. All that desire to be vaccinated are either scheduled or have already received a vaccine. The news has uplifted the staff.

School's third trimester starts next week. We are not planning to go remote after spring break (like we did for Christmas break) since numbers continue to go down in King County. Travel guidance was in the EFC again today to remind families of the quarantine guidance as spring break comes close. This is for all of us to keep our school safe.

Principal Horton is gathering information from the city regarding road closure options in front of the school to provide additional outside area. We would need to allow neighborhood and emergency vehicle access the street, so it will be complicated.

Planning has started for end of year activities, including exploring ways to bring field trips into the school and a remote Field Day. Ideas for graduation are also being discussed.

The 2021 / 2022 Calendar has been sent in for approval and will mirror this year. Aug 30 is the planned start of school.

Interviews are underway for the Counselor positions. This position is too important to not move forward with.

The school has submitted an intent to participate in the EANS funding for private schools. We should know later in March what the funding will look like. It is a grant and not a loan for COVID related expenses from which we can retroactively reimburse ourselves.

Many Catholic schools are pondering their model for the fall and whether a remote option should be considered for the fall. Is there enough stamina to have this mixed option next year? With a plan for children's vaccines pending, there are numerous unknowns for families. The Arch Diocese is considering a central option to support families. An open discussion on what HRS wants to do next year was held amongst the SC members.

Principal Horton shared some lessons learned from the Teachers from this year. They love the walks as a way to really get connection time with their students - especially the older students that they don't get that connection with. No crisis should go wasted!

Enrollment/Marketing Report

35 students who applied for admissions has been assessed. There is a lot of interest in the school at this time, but a conservative approach on enrollment numbers is being taken to be mindful of space required for social distancing. Limiting enrollment numbers, however, will have budget implications. Social distancing in the fall may be reduced from 6 feet to 3 feet, which is like our typical desk spacing. That would allow us to have a much more normal classroom set up. We are waiting for final guidance from the state Department of Health on guidance and hope to get that in the spring.

Development Report

Auction is Friday April 23. Still looking for ideas and ways to enable interaction among the families since the auction will still be all online. Discussions underway with restaurants in West Seattle that may offer a set menu for families to order as take out with proceeds coming back to the school.

\$116k has been raised to date for the annual fund. Grandparent's lunch garnered 5 donations for a total just under \$1,000. The luncheon typically earn \$5 – 6 k.

Financial Report

No financial update this month.

Parents' Club Report

No Parent's Club update this month.

Open Discussion

School Commission will have open positions for secretary and Vice President next year. Sara Volta will be the incoming President. It is a great opportunity to work closely with Principal Horton and Fr. Oakland to help set the direction for the school.

Jason Kadushin will move into the Finance chair role. We will send out the ask for new members to round out the board, with a focus on Catholic Identity and Alumni support working groups. We should also consider diversity as we recruit.

The next two School Commission meetings will be open commission board meetings.

Closing Prayer

Greg Topf led the School Commission in the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned.