

St. Columban Parish – Education Commission

Meeting Minutes Tuesday, November 7, 2017 7:00 P.M.

Call to Order: Adrienne Stella

Opening Prayer: Jo Rhoten

Attending: Jo Rhoten, Father Larry, Adrienne Stella, John Zazycki, Katie Marshall, Jenn Stacey, Andrea Flagg, Christine Hiller, Joe Crachiolo, Sarah Thompson, Stephanie Quehl, Becky Noel

Approval of October Minutes: Approved via email

Updates

A) Parish Council: John Zazycki

- Hope to have their goals complete by June, probably sooner
- Worked with the Parish Vision Team

B) PTO: Sarah Thompson

- After Boosterthon kept their fees, made a profit of \$33,597 plus change from the fundraiser
 - 1) Collected 98% of pledge money so far, still have about \$3,000 to collect
 - 2) 75% of money raised was from Pre-K to 5th graders
 - 3) 10% of pledges the 8th graders collected was given back to them to go toward their DC trip
- A survey was sent out to families and teachers about the fundraiser with 30 completed and sent in by families so far and 10 teachers turning theirs in.
- Thinking of changing the fundraiser for next year. Still working out the logistics and then will take it to the board. Will try to decide by the end of this month what fundraiser to do.

C) Pastoral: Father Larry

- Met with the Steering Committee on 11/6 from 6-10PM, where they took the Parish Mission Statement and divided it into 4 parts and put those parts/topic headers on different tables. The members then went through all of their notes/ideas and had to categorize them into one of those 4 topics and then process their table category.
- Don Kruse will be retiring 12/31. His job will be divided into different parts, with some duties going to some current members of the parish administration and other parts of the job (Virtus, administrative duties, etc) going to an Administrative Assistant that will be hired.

D) School: Jo Rhoten

- In year one of accreditation
 - 1) Staff has come up with a new mission statement to be approved next year. Feedback was given by members of Ed. Comm.
 - 2) Reviewing IOWA data
 - 3) The 5th and 8th grades took the ACRE test, which consists of knowledge questions and an affective section that will provide insight into what some of the Catholic identity goals may be. All data will help set goals to begin working on after next year.
- Pre-K
 - 1) May make some changes: considering dropping the three half-day classes
 - 2) Around 11/20 a letter will be sent out thanking the Pre-K families and will have choices for them to mark if they will be registering for K, staying in Pre-K for another year or not returning to St. Columban. This will help with the registration process.
 - 3) The school is considering screening for Pre-K in small groups as opposed to individually
- Got together with Jerry Sasson and a group of stakeholders to assess the needs of students. Started out under a mental health heading but the group branched out.
 - 1) One part of the group set out to connect families of St. Columban
 - 2) The other part of the group will continue with the mental health aspect, sending out surveys to be completed by parents, students and teachers to get some programs together to meet the needs based on those surveys. This will be sent out shortly.
- Applied for a Safety Grant to improve facilities and update access points: may be used to get new digital cameras, better wifi connections
- Reconciliation is coming up for the 2nd graders with the Reconciliation retreat on 12/2 and Reconciliation on 12/5 and 12/13
- Currently looking for a new Enrichment teacher for grades 2 through 5

E) School Building/Grounds Committee: Adrienne via update from Nick

- Putting together a list but waiting on Vision Team first

F) Tuition Assistance Fund: Adrienne Stella, Andrea Flagg

- Will be meeting with a parishioner that is in fundraising
- Contacted the Knights of Columbus who will keep tuition assistance in mind. They are currently working on their fundraiser and have always found many ways to help the school
- Donut Sunday Spotlight to bring awareness to the tuition assistance fund. Maybe if the school is featured at a Donut Sunday we can tie in tuition assistance.
- Restaurant fundraisers-looking into doing some fundraisers at local restaurants much like the 8th grade does for their DC trip. Possibly on Saturdays and Sundays after mass.
- Card night. Maybe have a Euchre night to help raise money

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 2, 2018; 7-8:30 P.M.

Closing Prayer: Father Larry

8:30 P.M.