

School Advisory Board Meeting

12 November 2019

Board Members:

Those Present: Janet Weisner, Marin Santrosola, Beth Henney, Mandy Deweese, Pat McJoynt-Griffith, Jamie Caridi, Kevin Sweeney, Jennifer Hadden, Ginna Springer, Fr. Dury

Those Absent: Trish Schindler, Nate Allwein, Brendan O'Rourke

Others Present: Mary Underwood - teacher rep; Johnean Goodwin, School Advancement Coordinator; Kate Allwein, Jamie Lawler, Michelle Santuomo - school parents.

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Fr. Dury commenced the meeting with a prayer

Meeting started approval of minutes from the September and October meetings. October minutes were corrected to add Beth Henney to the *Those Present* list.

Father Dury Report:

- Sacred Heart Enthronement is being planned with support from the Bishop and the School Superintendent. It will take place in January during Catholic Schools week. Date tbd. Information will be shared throughout the school and parish.
- The Sacred Heart Congress will be held at St. Michael Church this Saturday with the Bishop offering mass and Bill Messerly of St. Gabriel Radio as speaker.
- Children's choir is scheduled to sing at the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass.
- Advent preparation underway. On Dec. 3 at 10:00 am confession will be offered to school children. Parents are welcome to join.
- An update on the construction was given. Good progress is being made as is clearly visible. Ginna Spinger reported that the construction workers have been great with the kids answering questions, showing equipment, etc. The workers also helped to load equipment into the gym for Night at the Races.

Principal's Report:

- Lisa Curry, 5th grade teacher, is still out on an extended leave of absence. Jennifer Muszynski, who used to work at St. Pius, is collaborating with Diane Keanen to ensure that there is continuity and consistency in coverage for the 5th grade class. Janet continues work with the subs to assure that the classroom experience is steady for the students. Janet also has endeavored to provide a steady line of communication to 5th-grade parents especially considering the understandably difficult circumstances such an unplanned long-term absence inherently brings with it. The substitute teachers continue to follow the appropriate standards and

curriculum and have received notable support from the other school faculty and staff. Any questions or concerns should be addressed to Mrs. Keanen or Janet Weisner. Mrs. Curry is expected to back on Dec. 16.

- Janet explained the five minutes of dedicated quiet-time at the end of lunch to allow for students to finish up lunch (mainly K-5 students). The 6-9 grade students are given a bit more time to eat on those days when a larger number of kids buy lunch but do not take part in the quiet time practice.
- Conferences are under way. 5th grade conferences have been going well with parents, students and Mrs. Keanen. Janet has been participating in those conferences to make sure all parents' question are answered.
- Lunch process has reached a steady state with positive feedback. Nevertheless, there is a continuous process improvement being strived for.
- A playground update was given. The final permits from the city are being awaited. By early to mid-December the necessary pieces should be in place to move forward.
- Rachel Green is helping out with the Virtues Project (primarily 7th and 8th graders). A current aspect of the project will involve the stenciling of sayings on the walls (a la St. Michael's)

Committee Reports:

- Finance Report:
 - *Report given by Pat McJoynt-Griffith*
 - *Handout was provided*
 - 1st quarter variance report for 2019-20 was reviewed.
 - No concerns at this point beyond the cafeteria numbers which will hopefully steady as things with cafeteria operations gets settled. As a reminder we do budget a \$15,000 loss in cafeteria operations.
 - Per input from the Parish Finance Committee, the school needs to reduce its financial dependence on the parish over time to a more reasonable number, although no set amount has been defined at this point (the largest expense of the parish is education).
 - Father reinforced the idea that although education is a high priority of his, there has been a trend of more and more of the parish budget (percentage wise) going to the school and that the percentage at St. Catharine is larger than most parishes. This amount did go down slightly last year as the school came in under budget last year.
 - The current 2019-20 budget calls for a Parish subsidy to the school of \$386,000, which includes \$100,000 in Level II grants.
 - A retention and recruitment goal of 270 K-8 students (approx.. 30/class) bring up the numbers to 30 students per class is something we need to work toward. While the school runs a "top" program with aides in the lower grades and educational specialists (for which we receive a top tier tuition), reducing the parish financial commitment is all about the revenue side i.e. enrolled students. We have some small classes like the 6th grade at 19 students if we continue building a strong K enrollment of 30-35 this will help over time.
- Public Relations:
 - *Johnean gave the report*
 - Grades 4 and 6 are small classes.

- A recent review of the parish rolls show a large number (35+) of possible K-students.
- The response to the Irish Insider has been positive (70% open rate, which is high).
- Johnean plans on helping out with the Buddy Program via Home and School.
- **Jan. 26** is the Open House. Board members will be asked to help out.
- Kids with siblings will register **during** before Christmas Break.
- Jan 13-24 will be the “Parishioner Enrollment Phase”
- All others will enroll at and after Open House.
- \$250 discount for referrals is the current rate. Perhaps an increase would help boost referrals.
- Johnean asked about committee assignments and Jamie indicated that committees will be formed soon. Board members are asked to send committee requests to Jamie.
- Social media post suggestions and photos etcetera can be sent to Johnean via email.

New Business:

- A brief update to the Ohio EdChoice program was given by Pat McJoynt-Griffith and Janet Weisner followed by discussion.
 - 2016 was the last time a review was done of the EdChoice program by the Advisory Board and some changes to the program warrant a review. This overview kicks off this process.
 - A short overview of the basics EdChoice was given: Grants are available for students in failing schools. (Most of Columbus Public Schools). The grants are \$4650 for grades K-8, \$6000 grades 9-12.
 - Changes to the program happened in the summer of 2019 that affected high schools, allowing those students already attending a private high school to apply for the grants without first enrolling in a failing school. As a result, many local Catholic high schools became EdChoice participating schools.
 - This change **did not** affect grade schools.
 - As the change to the rules for high school were announced in July, there is desire on the board to be informed in advance and to be positioned to react if this were to happen again for grade schools (although at this time there is no indication that this will be the case.)
 - The question was raised if accepting EdChoice grants would help fill out smaller classes from people already having grants transferring from other private schools.
 - There was also a brief discussion concerning the additional administrative overhead and testing requirements that would go along with being an EdChoice school. Janet will continue her conversations with other principals who accept EdChoice as to the issue that arise.
 - The board will revisit this topic in future board meetings as additional information is made available and as the need arises.

Next meeting: December 10th

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kevin Sweeney