

School Advisory Board Meeting

14 July 2020

Board Members:

Those Present: Beth Henney, Mandy Deweese, Pat McJoynt-Griffith, Jamie Caridi, Kevin Sweeney, Marin Santorsola, Ginna Springer, Fr. Dury, Nate Allwein, Trish Schindler, David Bourke, Jennifer Hadden, Mark Watts, Janet Weisner, Father Dury

Those Absent:

Others Present:

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 7:36 p.m.

Fr. Dury commenced the meeting with a prayer

The meeting primarily consisted of discussions of the current events related to the school reopening and the work of the School Reopening Task Force.

Mark Watts:

- The task force assembled in late June. Two meetings have been held thus far.
- There are some Board members also on the task force.
- Much work has been done but work work remains.
- We need to identify things we can control and those we can't control.
- TBD if school can go back and in what capacity?
- We will be ready for school no matter what it looks like.
- There will be another task force meeting this week.
- MW has had meetings with two teacher groups and with Dury.
- Still to be decided, when will spring break be?
 - after Easter?
 - Hartley and St. Charles have decided to make spring break Mar. 15-19.
 - Survey results about spring break dates were mixed. (111 responded)
 - 45% had no preference
 - 22% preferred to move break to Mar. 13
 - 32% preferred not to move break
 - A few board members said we should align with the high schools.
- School will start on Aug. 24 (first work week for teachers)
 - Aug. 31st first days for school in staggered start. 1-2 days to get acclimated.
 - Official first day of school: Sept. 8.
 - Official last day of school June 4.
 - 178 instructional days. <185 days for teachers (as per contract)
- Diosean plan for reopening was revised on July 9 (minor changes).
- Non-draft document has been released.
- We are considering three possible tiers for reopening school
 1. Full face to face
 2. Blended learning

3. Full distance/on line learning.
- We want to avoid distance learning if possible.
 - Some families will want remote learning for various reasons.
 - Tier 1 will not work, it was decided. This after a review of space and staff needs
 - Due to need for masks and 6-foot distance, in order to meet these conditions classes (all) will not fit in single classroom.
 - Not enough staff to allow for any absences and cover all “half-classes”
 - Lunch is difficult.
 - IEP meetings – The teachers need to be there.
 - Most likely at this point is a Tier II model
 - All things point to half-day option.
 - No bussing problems for us
 - Morning group 8-11
 - 1 hour for cleaning (give teachers time for lunch 30 min. per contract and planning period)
 - Afternoon group 12-3 (or 12:30-3:30)
 - Advantage: get to see kids every day. Better for social/emotional
 - No need for lunch break (can hand out lunch for those with free/reduced lunch).
 - Still have specials. Teachers would come to classroom. Art e.g.
 - PE outside for as long as possible.
 - Music – standing.
 - Intervention, tutoring, speech, mass - still possible (would alternate 9 am and 1 pm)
 - Time for teacher-led religious services.
 - We will survey parents re. AM v. PM times and the need for Latchkey services.
 - Can we announce this quickly to give families time to plan?

The following points were discussed:

- Need to give families time to switch from one tier to another
- The possible use of Zoom with a classroom camera to allow kids at home to dial in.
- Tier III needs to be worked on for both families learning from home during the Tier II model and if the need arises for the whole school to go back to complete distance learning.
- Possible use of Diocesan – wide classes online (since curriculum is the same across the board)
- Can we use our own ‘color coding’ and not that of the county? No, this is not possible.
- MW will follow up with communication to parents seeking feedback.
- MW will forward docs from diocese to board
- The 6th grade will need special care. Had a rough time last year.
- Subs will be a problem. We are always short and this will be a big problem next year. (more so!!!) many will retired teachers who can’t sub due to COVID danger.
- Will Digital Academy platform be ready? How is professional development coming along? We need to quickly get both teachers and parents up and running. Teachers will have two weeks of opportunities to learn.

- It is imperative to give the message to community as to the importance of a Catholic education even with distance learning.
- Task Force meeting this week, then final proposal to Fr. Dury and the Board and then to Diocesan office.

Father thanked the board, task force and Mark for the work they have put into opening up safely.

Mark expressed thanks for the input and support from the community. Please continue with feedback.

Next meeting: TBD

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kevin Sweeney