

School Advisory Board Meeting

22 September 2020

Board Members:

Those Present: Beth Henney, Pat McJoynt-Griffith, Jamie Caridi, Kevin Sweeney, Marin Santorsola, Ginna Springer, Trish Schindler, Mark Watts, Father Dury, Rene Scurlock

Those Absent: Mandy Deweese, Nate Allwein

Others Present via Zoom: David Bourke, Jennifer Hadden

Proceedings:

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

Fr. Dury commenced the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting started with approval of the minutes from the July and August meetings.

Father Dury

- Father gave credit to Mark Watts and to the teachers for all the hard work done on getting the building and material ready for school. It was recognized that this year there was more work than ever getting ready for the start of school. He also expressed his appreciation for the parents and their patience.
- Father expressed his gratitude that the kids are doing well and he was happy to have been able to get back into the classroom (8th grade) to teach religion.
- School Mass was different but great to be able to offer Sacraments. (Parents are asked not to attend.)
- First Holy Communion from last year was rescheduled for this Saturday. Some families have opted to wait or do it at daily Mass. Families are interested if confession will be available before then. Father outlined a few possibilities.
- Father especially enjoys the letter that the kids write about receiving their First Holy Communion.
- Confirmation will be later in October. An email will go out about what to wear, times, etc.
- Elevator project is complete. Blessing will happen soon. The students will be able to use the elevator now.
- Father reminded us of the difficult times we are having and that Jesus will get us through with His Grace.
- Father mentioned that Damascus Ministries is running our youth ministry and that there were some new hirers for Adult Faith Formation

Principal's Report:

The first point discussed was that the parish center has been made available to all parents to work while kids are in school (esp. important for those commuting from far away.) This was first offered to families coming from far away. The families can work,

get wifi, buy coffee, and perhaps even go to Adoration. Masks and social distancing are required. A handful of families are taking advantage. There is a need to register in advance for fire code reasons.

Mark made a number of points:

- Thanks to Mrs. Scurlock for helping with work that Mary Underwood used to do regarding First Communion.
- Current enrollment is steady at 255 (no departures as school districts reopen)
- Some new students have come in from Marburn Academy and Bexley.
- A number of families have contacted us for next year.
- The fire department came and did a drill yesterday.
- Some safety issues were brought to the school's attention that that will be addressed.
- The stress level in school has gone down since reopening, but Mark is worried about teachers as it is a long day.
- Things are working that we were initially unsure about.
- Dismissal is happening in 8-12 minutes.
- At 11:00 am, the cleaning crew goes through and sanitizes shared spaces.
- Mark reported that he went through flow chart about how and when to best see/serve kids with special needs (speech, OT, etc.). The schedule is still being worked out with the attempt to serve all students the best we can. This is a work in progress.
- Staffing – short. Back to two people in the cafeteria.
- Still looking for instructional aids. Some parish preschool employees will help out in the afternoon until aids are found.
- Meals will be prepared for all students free of charge, which is covered by Federal COVID-relief fund. This will be done until the money runs out.
- Since the start of school, the first grade classroom has flooded there times. Carpet needs replaced. New flooring was put in (vinyl on concrete slab.)
- The long-term plan is to move classes out of basement.
- The new camera system is working well. We are able to see all corners of school which is more secure.
- Mark is still working the right rhythm and modes for parent communication (weekly Irish Insider with daily announcements).
- The school is still working through Digital Academy kinks. School is looking at backup plan with seesaw, class dojo, etc.
- Faith Formation / Service aspects are being focused on (e.g. food drive with 8th graders), leadership option for 7th graders.
- Mark mentioned a possible pilgrimage for 8th graders. Details to come.
- As of today (9/22/20), there have been zero known new cases.
- Some Parents are wondering when we are going back full time.
 - o Possible options include doing what we had last year.
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 - o We have had a few students who have needed to quarantine.
 - o Teachers on board report that mask wearing has been great. The kids do not play with them and keep them on.
 - o The kids and glad to back together again and are overall joyful. They leave messages on their “Desk Pen-pals.”
 - o A discussion was had about the kids at home and how to get them more service. The 10-12 families learning from home are struggling. The questions was posed about if it would not be better to shift the focus from specials to focus on helping out the core teachers with at-home learners. Ideas that were brought up were zoom lunches, daily check-

ins, perhaps a monthly call with Mark, and more regular touch-base with at-home families.

The question was also raised as to the possibilities of allowing at-home kids to zoom into classes, as is being successfully done at other local school. More fellowship with and between parents would also go a long way. Mark Watts will update the board on collaboration with at-home families within a few weeks.

- Student in cohort tests positive – must be communicated to all school with separate communication to the specific cohort.

Committee Reports:

- Finance Report:
 - *Due to the extended discussion, the report on the budget and the financial report from last year was postponed until the next meeting.*
- Public Relations:

No PR committee report tonight.

Next meeting: TBD

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kevin Sweeney