

St Mary's Board of Education

March 18, 2025

Religion and Prayer Room

Call to Order: 7:03am- Dan

1. Prayer: Jake
2. **Present:** Dan Kirscht, Troy Sladek, Kristen Faber, Jake Mach, Amanda Kietzmann, Fr. Dan Ruprecht, John Orme, Tammy Huss, Todd Wentworth, James Turner, Laurie Bienias
Absent: Fr. Matthew Kuhn

Recommended Action

Routine Matters-

1. Approval of Agenda: Kristen made a motion to approve the agenda. James seconded. Motion approved.
2. Approval of Minutes: Amanda brought up the revised minutes and the added paragraph that added great detail to the tuition discussion. Amanda requested we strike "The board of education agreed with this model moving forward" and replace it with "The BOE will further discuss this model at the next meeting." Kristen made a motion to approve the minutes with this change. Jake seconded. Motion approved.

**Pre-typed summaries are made available to members before the meeting. Anything additional is mentioned here.

Sub-Committee Reports

1. Parent Advisory Council: There will be a meeting at the end of March. There is a subcommittee working on a wearable SMS apparel item for the teachers.
2. ACCS Building/ Site Committee: James - extending discounts on tuition to other "faith leaders". Troy had met with Andrew(Zion) and Jaci(ACCS) recently. Jaci reported that she is making progress with her connections with NorthStar. They may be in a market for an academic option for their students. Their current program is not transferring as many classes/credits to Post- Secondary institutions.
 - a. Dan asked James about potentially sticking on when he is done with BOE to remain as our ACCS liaison. James will consider.

Staff Reports

1. Faith Formation: Tammy- nothing added.

2. St Mary's School: Troy is encouraged by the observations of the reading/phonics program. They have seen widespread improvements on reading scores. Math review will be next.

Old Business

1. School Family Appeal Letter: Dan is encouraged by the process and the fruit of the collaboration with the finance council/Craig.
2. Kindergarten and Sixth Grade Family List: we have 9 openings for Kindergarten yet. Troy offered an opportunity to look at the list of current 5th grade students and encouraged conversations with these families- if we felt comfortable.
 - a. Kristen shared her reasons to choose Lincoln over SMS in 2014. This was an offshoot of our discussion of understanding our "customer base".
 - b. Dan proposes a potential subcommittee to look into "evangelizing" and communication with school and non-school families.
3. RCIA to OCIA Information: Tammy gave some clarity in change in terms. "Order of Christian Initiation of Adults". Unbaptized need one year of formation.
4. Pathways Update: Laurie reported in review of the first year. She will have more feedback by next month's meeting of a survey they are conducting. Overall, she has seen some great growth. A testimony by a parishioner each month has been the most life giving at their sessions/meetings.

New Business

1. Tuition and Registration Timeline: Much discussion.
 - a. Overall points: enrollment is down district-wide. One example is in Dist 206, there are 320 seniors and 270 incoming Kindergarteners. There are less students and the trend looks to continue.
 - b. Troy is not feeling comfortable with the previously discussed charges for non-parishioner families and also the outlook of tuition increase. We discussed this at length and the concern of pressing too much financially on the families. James pointed out that we have been asked to follow the Finance Council for tuition and a non-member registration fee. It was discussed and decided to recommend to the finance council to not have a non-member registration fee and to give families an indication there will most likely be a rise in tuition - approximately in the 6%-11% range. Troy may or may not use exact percentage numbers. The tuition should be finalized some time in May after the Finance Council settles on the Church budget. A motion was made by James, to move forward with registration with the above parameters. Motion carried.
2. Grade 6 Program Ideas: Troy has been brainstorming with 6th grade teachers. One idea is to boost the STEM projects. One way to do this is to collaborate with a business and to build something. Premier IT solutions is a potential partner. Discussed the idea of an E-sports team. The board is open to Troy creating something and/or partnering with someone.

Information & Proposals

1. Pastoral Council Update: "All Things New" planning meeting on March 22nd.

Future Business

Next Meeting Date: April 15, 2025 7am.

Adjournment:8:20am

Minutes submitted by Amanda Kietzmann on 2/19/25

Edited 4/16/25