

St. Patrick School Board
May 31, 2018
Minutes for 2018-19 School Year

Attendance: Lisa Bartlett, Bruce Beachnau, Brandi Bengel, Heather Boyd, Jen Davlin, Jeff Fedewa, Annalise Laumeyer, Shayla Schneider, Teresa Schneider, Melissa Schrauben, Cortney Smith, Mark Thelen, Leslie Weller, Nancy Wohlscheid, Michael Wolfston, Randy Hodge, Deacon Don Sobolewski, Father Mike Alber

I. Mr. Hodge opened the first school board meeting of the 2018-19 school year.

A) Election of Chairperson

Annalise Laumeyer was the only nomination for chairperson. There was no discussion. School board members voted by written ballot, Fr. Mike counted. Annalise was elected as the new chairperson.

B) Election of Vice Chairperson

Melissa Schrauben was the only nomination for vice chairperson. There was no discussion. School board members voted by written ballot, Fr. Mike counted. Melissa was elected as the new vice-chairperson.

C) Membership Changes

Dr. Bruce Beachnau, Keelie Honsowitz, Marc Nichols, Mark Thelen and Teresa Schneider are exiting the school board. Heather Boyd, Jeff Fedewa, Cortney Smith and Leslie Weller were approved as new school board members. Heather and Jeff will serve on the Finance, Building & Grounds Subcommittee; Leslie will serve on the Marketing and Communications Subcommittee; and Cortney will serve on the Development, Admissions & Enrollment Subcommittee.

Discussion followed regarding the ratio of non-parent school board members. No more than 40% of school board members can be non-parents per diocesan guidelines. Father Mike suggested looking for school board members in the greater community such as business leaders and others. The school board has accepted that as a task for next year. Annalise welcomed the new school board members and each new school board member gave a quick introduction.

II. New Business

A) MHSAA Membership

Mr. Hodge reminded school board members they have to vote each year to join the Michigan High School Athletic Association. Membership applies to high school only; junior high school athletes compete in the Catholic League. There is no fee to join the MHSAA. School board members voted to keep our membership with the MHSAA. The school board secretary will sign the papers once Mr. Hodge receives them.

B) Senior Polo Color Request

Annalise read a portion of a letter from the junior class requesting permission to order red polo shirts for their senior year. The letter explained the color red represents Jesus' blood/sacrifice and red is the color of martyrs. Mr. Hodge recommended approval. School board members approved the polo shirts.

C) Staff Bathrooms

Annalise read a portion of the letter from the faculty and staff regarding concerns over the separation of student and faculty/staff bathroom facilities. Some of the

concerns mentioned were: a lack of time to walk to the Parish Hall bathrooms and back to the classroom, unsupervised students, doors locked during funeral lunches, being subjected to scrutiny and no real improvement to safety. Annalise mentioned there is no official diocesan policy regarding staff bathrooms; however she presented some points from the Standards of

Ministerial Behavior and Protecting God's Children Training. Following these points, Annalise mentioned that these guidelines suggest staff

bathrooms are a best practice for the protection of staff, visitors and students. Staff Members also attended the School Board Meeting to provide public comment regarding the letter that was sent to the School Board, as well as some of their thoughts/concerns regarding this new policy. Staff Members that attended the meeting include: Jan Simon, Mary Cook, Kaye Sandborn, Kristie Cook, and Diane Simon. Following the public comment from the Staff Members, Father Mike stated

staff bathrooms are a facility issue, not a board issue, and he will conduct a walk-through with Mike Johnson, Mr. Hodge and teachers to figure out what needs to be done. For the time being, the topic is tabled.

D) Budget

Mike Johnson reviewed the budget which will be very close to the same as last year. Mr. Hodge expects three more students to re-enroll and

possibly seven new students to enroll. Preschool which includes DK has to be self-supporting, a mandate from the Grand Rapids Diocese. The Student Ambassador team is ready to visit surrounding parishes. Mr. Hodge was trying to schedule those visits with pastors. Fr. Darrel in Pewamo said no to a visit, but yes to other means and Father Tom from Ss. Peter and Paul and St. Edward has not returned a phone call. Father Mike said he would reach out to Father Tom. Annalise stated the Marketing Subcommittee hopes to get out to local parishes with the Student Ambassador Team yet this summer.

III. Subcommittee Discussion on Goals for 2018-19 School Year

A) Policy and Strategic Planning Subcommittee

Shayla and Lisa will take over on the Planning Subcommittee this year. They plan on meeting with Father Mike for a needs assessment once he begins in July. They will also work on the discipline rubric.

B) Mission Effectiveness

The subcommittee met in April. Students will make Advent shoeboxes again this year. The subcommittee would like to get students out in the community visiting nursing homes and have students who are Eucharistic Ministers make First Friday communion calls. The subcommittee may try to establish a prayer buddy program between Faith Formation students and St. Patrick students. Another idea is to have students dress as their favorite saint on All Saints Day. Mr. Hodge said the school could consider doing a parade of saints instead of traditional Halloween costumes. Mission Effectiveness would like to have a trophy case featuring alumni priests and sisters.

C) Marketing & Communications

In regard to paid advertising, the subcommittee will continue their contract with the Grand Ledge Theater and will look into the Portland Beacon, along with additional social media advertising. Michael and Cortney said Channel 6 is helpful with social media outreach, they worked with them for Summerfest. Cortney stated Channel 6 can generate publicity for a reasonable fee.

D) Development, Admissions and Enrollment

The subcommittee shared a development proposal with the Father Flohe

Foundation and Father Mike. In July, the subcommittee will hit the ground running to set goals for Admissions. In addition, Enrollment will work with Marketing and Mission Effectiveness to get more students through the door. Michael provided an update on Summer Fest. Merchant sponsorships total approximately \$24,000. Radio and TV advertisements will begin two weeks before Summer Fest. Flyers were sent to six school districts for the dance party with DJ Dill Pickle. The baseball tournament has over 36 teams participating.

E) Finance, Buildings and Grounds

In addition to Mike Johnson's report above, the committee was tasked to find the retention rate of DK to Kindergarten for next year (fifteen of sixteen students in DK will attend SPS next school year). Area preschool rates will be researched.

IV. Principal's Report

The school is waiting for a decision from the State of Michigan regarding shared time. Mrs. Russman is moving from preschool to kindergarten. A full-time theology teacher will be hired and he or she will have authority to instruct the other teachers, more of a department chair position. Ms. Dorsky will not be returning. Spanish will not be taught to elementary students, instead second through fifth graders will have STEM classes one day each week taught by Mrs. Fleischer. Foreign language will move from 8th and 9th grades to 9th and 10th grades. German and Latin will be taught. Students can take other foreign language credits through Michigan Virtual High School, including American Sign Language.

The Class of 2019 has asked the Policy Subcommittee to review how the school awards the valedictorian and salutatorian status because Heartland students cannot earn 5.0 grades and some college classes are less rigorous. The Class of 2019 has also asked for a senior privilege of taking chromebooks home for the summer in order to take summer college classes, apply to colleges and apply for scholarships. There is no policy about taking them home for the summer and with only days left before the end of the year, the board did not feel comfortable making a recommendation. Mr. Hodge asked the Policy Subcommittee to review the idea for next year. Jeff asked the Policy subcommittee to research the opportunity of adding positive disciplines into the rubric when it is reviewed..

V. Review of Tasks and Assignments

1. Nancy will sign the MHSAA participant form.
2. Father Mike will proof the handbook.
3. Father Mike will do a walk-thru of the school with Mike Johnson, Mr. Hodge, and teachers.
4. Father Mike will reach out to Sts. Peter and Paul and St. Joseph.
5. Finance Subcommittee will research area preschool rates.
6. Policy Subcommittee will look into:
 - a) valedictorian/salutatorian awards
 - b) rigor of college classes
 - c) chromebooks home for the summer
 - d) rubric/positive discipline

Closing prayer schedule and dates for next year:

August 14, 2018: Melissa

October 16, 2018: Jen

December 11, 2018: Brandi

February 19, 2019: Heather

April 23, 2019: Jeff

May 21, 2019: Annalise

Meetings will be on Tuesday evenings again next year. Meetings will begin a 6 p.m. with Mass in the Church with the meeting in the parish hall to follow Mass.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. Next meeting is August 14th.

Notes submitted by Nancy Wohlscheid