

**ST. PATRICK PARISH SCHOOL COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MEETING MINUTES
December 1, 2009**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Ralph called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Mr. Hodge had the opening prayer.

Present: Ken Cook, Mark Davis, Dan Lawless, Ralph Willemin, Dave Zimmerman, Randy Hodge
Absent: Diane Bissell, George Rutherford, Father Larry, Deacon Don

- II. **REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** November minutes were approved.

III. **REPORTS:**

A. Principal: Report submitted. Mr. Hodge highlighted some of the following points. The handbooks are out; every child has a copy of the handbook and it must be signed and returned in order to participate in any extra-curricular activities. A behavior rubric is included in the handbook as well as the overnight field trip policies. The honor roll standard has been raised to a 3.3 GPA with no grade lower than a B-. All policies are consistent for DK through 12. Jordan Smith was hired as the new high school science teacher. He likes hands on experiments and he is taking great care of the science lab. A new cabinet was purchased to store the chemicals properly and the chemicals are clearly labeled. Christmas program will be DK-5 and all the kids will be on stage for all 9 songs. News articles are getting great responses from people and Randy thanked Sue VanLente and Mary Cook for their help. The High School Retreat Day went well. The Senior class tried something new this year and went to DeWitt. Wireless internet is being installed in the school.

B. Pastor: Absent

C. Pastoral Associate: Absent

D. Chairperson: Dr. Bernier will be speaking in the Parish Hall on January 19th. Attendees will be asked to pre-register on the school website. Dr. Bernier will also speak about our school and the importance of AP classes and the ACT and how they are more important than dual enrollment. Ralph stated that this event will be promoted extensively. The program will start at 6:45 pm in case we need overflow and have to move to the church.

IV. **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

A. Fundraising: No report.

B. Public Relations: No report.

V. **OLD BUSINESS:**

25 Large: Ken will have a count of sold tickets by this weekend. He is hoping to sell tickets after some masses during the month of December. December needs to be a big month for sales.

Tuition Incentives: The two ads in the paper generated talk. The cable channel will be rotating some ads for free. The Facebook page will be up soon with a PowerPoint presentation. Three students are willing to go out and promote the school to area parishes.

Diocesan Meeting: Meeting was great. Marketing plans have been charged to the schools; guidelines were distributed to the commission members. Ralph stated that our marketing strategy is at least equal

to other schools. PTO will be matching new parents with experienced parents in order to make them feel welcome. Mr. Hodge also matches new students with current students.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

GM Relocation: UAW leadership is putting together packages for the GM workers being relocated from Tennessee to Michigan. Dan has been in contact with one UAW leader and needs approval from one more leader to place information about the school in the packets. We need to print 600 brochures.

Sts. Peter and Paul Students: Discussion regarding an effort to connect with Sts. Peter and Paul. Ralph will set up a meeting between school commissions. Mr. Hodge has given a tour to one parent from SSPP whose children are in elementary school and the parent may be interested in sending the children to SPHS in the future. Another parent was asking about the possibility of his son playing basketball on the 8th grade team but SSPP is not sanctioned with the MHSAA and SP is sanctioned so that means the student cannot play for SP.

VI. OTHER:

Dave suggested SP brochures be given to the area realtors. It was also suggested that school brochures be available in January when Dr. Bernier speaks.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting will be on the second Tuesday of the month, which is January 12, 2010 following Mass. Location will be announced on a later date.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm with closing prayer by Ralph.

Principal's Report

1. The new school handbook has been completed and distributed to all middle school and high school students. Elementary students will have it sent home in their Friday folder Dec. 4. The major changes are:
 - a. Behavior rubrics will be used for most discipline scenarios including tardies.
 - b. The overnight field trip policies are included in the new handbook.
 - c. Clarified what students can wear on "Spirit Wear" days and what boy's basketball players can wear during their season.
 - d. The Honor Roll standards have been raised to a 3.3 gpa and no grade below a B- which is consistent with our standard for NHS.
 - e. Most policies are now consistent DK – 12.

We will keep track of anything that was missed or needs to be altered and have the new handbook ready for the 2010 – 11 Open House.

2. We are participating in Toys for Tots and assisting with getting items for the Portland Community Fund Christmas Sharing Program. We are also helping with the Baby Bottle Boomerang fundraiser to raise money and donate Wipes, Diapers and Formula to the Pregnancy Services of Ionia County.
3. Mr. Jordan Smith was hired as the new Science teacher and officially started on November 16. He is working on reorganizing, cleaning, and inventorying the new science room. He is bringing the storage of chemicals up to higher standard. A new flammable and corrosives storage containers were purchased. He will be using a labeling system to help identify all chemicals.
4. The Veterans Day ceremony was well received and many who attended were moved.
5. A schedule has been prepared for students to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation once during the school year. Students in grades 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 will receive the sacrament during Advent.
6. The "Retreat Day" went very well.
7. "Pay It Forward Day" and "Hoops for Heart" went well.
8. The PR committee advertising has been reaching a lot of people based on comments that I have been hearing from the public.
9. The dinner with Portland Public School Board of Education and St. Patrick School Commission went well. Portland Public is ending their relationship with the Heartlands Institute of Technology and it is highly probable that program may end up folding. Many other cuts are being discussed and for obvious reasons, they are very worried about the lack of State funding.
10. The Fall sports season came to an official end at our sports banquet on Thursday, November 12.
11. High School seniors will have open lunch one day a month beginning in December.
12. The elementary Christmas program is scheduled for December 15 at the PHS auditorium.
13. The school will be opened again this year for individuals walking in the evening during the winter months. It will begin on Monday, November 30. There should be more info in an upcoming bulletin.