

**St. Patrick School Board Meeting Notes**  
**March 17, 2013**

Present: Bruce Beachnau, Jennifer Davlin, Jennifer Meredith, Michael Russman, Jill Scheurer, Sue VanLente, Nancy Wohlscheid, Randy Hodge,

- I. Public Comment:** None
- II. Approval of January Minutes:** Minutes were approved as written.
- III. Parish Update (Father Larry/Deacon Don)**

Bruce provided an explanation of how student altar servers can volunteer for weddings and funerals. Servers receive a quarterly letter from Deacon Don offering them an opportunity to volunteer for masses, and now weddings and funerals have been added. Bruce also provided an update on the Restore and Renew Capital Campaign. The core team has developed a presentation which will be shown after the April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Masses. The Mission Effectiveness Committee is working to get capital campaign information out to the youth of the parish. Jen D. is hoping to get big and little rocks to do posters of stewardship and set up a gallery of the posters. Sue has set up information centers with newsletters and other information. The first Q & A sheets are available in the church. Any questions should be given to Sue to include in the Q & A's. Mr. Hodge pointed out there have been questions regarding why a new gym was not included in the capital campaign. Discussion followed.

**IV. Principal's Report (Principal Hodge)**

Mr. Hodge reviewed the Principal's Report and discussed next year's registration. Afternoon preschool classes are not offered until the morning classes are filled. Despite poor weather, attendance to the open house was good. Mr. Hodge is anticipating two classes of kindergarten next year.

More multimedia projectors have been installed with only seven remaining. The school office staff needs new laptops this year because they are not functioning very well.

Mr. Hodge discussed the preliminary 2013-14 school calendar. The diocese is requiring 181 days next year. Portland Public Schools have many professional development days next year. Mr. Hodge and school board members discussed the no busing days. Mr. Hodge stated that the teachers have requested days to review MAPS testing results in order to use the results in a positive way for students. Mr. Hodge would like to use a day in November right before Thanksgiving break and a day in January for teachers to review MAPS. Mr. Hodge is trying to reduce the eleven no busing days and one way to possibly reduce these days is to start school after Labor Day; however, teachers feel students are fresher in August than the end of the school year. Jill asked if the two schools' professional development days match and Mr. Hodge said no because many of SP days are in line with the diocese. Jen D. said a detailed letter from a previous year explaining why we had an extra day off for Easter Monday was very nice. Mr. Hodge pointed out that Easter Monday this year falls over spring break. Mr. Hodge indicated the no busing days for next year will be back to a split schedule, which will be the normal two start times for the elementary and the middle/high school. The elementary start

time for next year will be changed so that busing is better aligned and students are not late for school. Elementary students will begin their day at 8:45 a.m. rather than 8:30 a.m.

Mr. Hodge distributed the position description for Director of Student Life. This new position will primarily handle student behavior problems and standardized testing. Discussion followed including concerns about the low salary. This position will allow Mr. Hodge to spend more time in the classrooms.

Mrs. Robydek and Mr. Hodge drafted a dual enrollment policy. There was a question as to why a theology course could not be taken. Mr. Hodge said it is because the State of Michigan will not pay for a theology class. Mr. Hodge stated a student can pay for the class him/herself.

## **V. Follow-Up Items**

### **A. Assistant Principal Position Profile**

See IV. above (Director of Student Life)

### **B. School Start Time Update**

See IV. above

### **C. Policy on Prayer and National Anthem at Sporting Events**

Policy is already written for the National Anthem. Policy Committee is looking into the legalities of prayer before home games and calling other schools in the conference to get their reactions. Mr. Hodge checked with Dave Faber and he suggested a generic prayer. Jill commented that a very nice prayer has been provided by the Mission Effectiveness Committee and Jen D. said the prayer is welcoming to all. Pat Russman is checking with Chuck Dumas to make sure we have approval to use prayer at the PPS facilities. Mr. Hodge said there is no issue using prayer before games in our buildings. The Mission Effectiveness Committee would like the prayer printed on the rosters. Mr. Hodge stated that he provides an opening prayer every year at the CMAC scholar/athlete meeting and there have never been any complaints. The Policy Committee doesn't know how respectful people will be. The agenda item is tabled until more information is provided. Bruce will follow up with Pat Russman.

### **D. Policy on Clothing at School Mass**

There will be a change in the school handbook. Students will be required to wear regular uniforms on days of Mass, prayer service and holy days of obligation. Spirit wear is fine for Stations of the Cross on Fridays. Jill and Bruce have already worked this change in to the athletic policy.

### **E. Parent Survey**

Parent Survey will be done via the web. Mr. Hodge will send a letter out through the mail after spring break stating the survey is available on a certain date. Parents can fill it out more than once. Mr. Hodge will tweak the letter. Jen M. will input the survey on Survey Monkey.

## **VI. Sub-Committee Update of Goals and Members**

### **A. Mission Effectiveness (Jen D. and Joyce)**

Mission Effectiveness would like big rocks and little rocks to make cards for shut-ins throughout the year. Mr. Hodge said we can make a process for those who are under the radar. Some teachers already have their classes make cards when they are aware of somebody who is really sick, been involved in an accident, or for family members who have lost a loved one. Mission Effectiveness would like the high school students to deliver communion to the sick and homebound a couple times during the school year. The committee has a three to five year goal to increase enthusiasm for the religious life. Mission Effectiveness would like to see nuns come to the school and speak to students. Mr. Hodge has tried this in the past with nuns from Ann Arbor and they were already booked for two years.

### **B. Marketing and PR (Nikki and Sue)**

Sue met with Scott Toaz from Sts. Peter and Paul as to why we are not making inroads into the school. Sue did not get concrete answers. A suggestion was made to send *The Shamrock* newsletter to Sts. Peter and Paul's older students and their families. Jen M. brought up the idea of reaching out to the religious education families with a survey about attending St. Patrick School. School board members agreed to brainstorm this idea at the next meeting.

### **C. Policy (Jill and Bruce)**

Jill reported that a draft policy for athletics is done and pointed out that every possible scenario cannot possibly be reviewed. Jill commented that at the end of the day, Pat Russman is the one that has to enforce the athletic policy and he was good about helping everyone through the process. He wants to stay on the committee. It will be presented and then reviewed and finalized at the following meeting.

### **D. Strategic Planning (Keelie and Mike)**

Mike reported that the Strategic Planning Committee is still working with the subcommittees. He will contact Mike Johnson regarding how much the laptops will cost and the committee will figure out what the budget can cover. Ross Schneider has been getting quotes for the hard drives especially for the elementary. Mr. Hodge said there are quotes for the commercial wireless system, notebooks, servers, etc. Mike would like to know how much needs to be allocated to specific resources. Mike commented that the committee would like to get a tour of the labs with Mike Johnson and Mr. Hodge. Mike is working on a survey for the teachers. Mr. Hodge said Bob VanLente is also doing a survey so both should be combined.

### **E. Finance (Tammy and Nancy)**

### **F. Executive (Jen M.)**

Jen M. said she will get Survey Monkey done. Regarding potential new school board members, Jen M. had four nominations. Two of the nominations are not eligible to serve

on the school board unless they resign their paid positions. That leaves two possible nominations. Discussion and brainstorming of other potential members followed.

**VI. New Agenda Items**

**A.**

**B.**

**C.**

**VII. Review of Tasks and Action Items**

**A.**

**B.**

**C.**

Closing Prayer (Mr. Hodge)

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 6 pm

Adjournment: School Board meeting adjourned

--Notes submitted by Nancy Wohlscheid