

St. Mary Education Committee

August 26, 2020 – 5:30 pm

Meeting Minutes via Zoom Conference Call due to COVID Pandemic

Members Present: Father Brad Whistle, April Dunn, Andrew DuPerrieu, James Paxton, Kelly Yazigi, Janet Vannatter, and Jenny Nunley

Members Not Present: Chris Miller, Michael Eck, Brian Hayden, and Ayanna McKenzie

St. Mary /Diocesan Staff Present: Eleanor Spry, Doug Shelton, Mary Smith, Ashely Wright, and Robin Mowers

Meeting Called to Order – 5:36 pm

Opening Prayer – Father Brad

Introduction of New Members – April Dunn, St. John the Evangelist and Jenny Nunley, St. Francis de Sales.

Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Jamie Paxton to approve the meeting minutes from July 29, 2020, and Andrew DuPerrieu, seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Episcopal Vicar Updates – None

Administrator Updates -

Director Updates – Mercy Health partnership has been a long journey and Mr. Youngman was very open to the discussion and being accommodating to the school. We are approved for a nurse for 10 hours a week for 40 weeks. We have left the door open for more future help. We have had a wonderful team of faculty and staff. All came out with one front and ready to go forward, and the focus has been on the kids. The team has gone above and beyond.

Elementary School - Written report provided. Clarification on Librarian leave of absence and opening was provided.

High/Middle School – Written Report provided

Catholic Identify – Liturgical calendar was published. No travel current, so no senior retreat in September.

Advancement and Enrollment – Written and Verbal Enrollment has been up and down with COVID. Retention rate is down where a number of families have chosen home schooling or withdrew for other reason. Transition retention rates are running average. We have hit the goal of having 70/30 Catholic percentages. Diversity is up 2%. Total enrollment is up 11.3%, 10% increase in enrollment, and 8% increase in tuition assistance. Elementary School has grown for the last 7 years. Enrollment is 374.

Fundraising / Annual Fund / Tuition Assistance – Each of these areas were discussed and an update and review of the Viking Society was given. Since July 1st, \$59,775, has been raised towards Viking Society. The annual fund goal is \$200k for this school year. SMEC members as part of the leadership level are encouraged to donate to the Annual Fund. The funds received through the Annual Fund are unrestricted unless designated for tuition assistance. Those unrestricted funds are critical to be used day-to-day operating expenses which tuition doesn't cover. Tuition covers about 75% of employee pay and donated funds are used for the remaining 25% employee pay along with the system operating expenses.

Building & Grounds – No report. The parking lot is torn up at the elementary school and they are working on a resolution.

Finance Report – Financials for June and July approved.

Technology – No report

Booster club – Written Report

New Business – Honors policy committee updated that they have taken a break but they made connections today about setting up a future meeting. Any changes made, would only affect the freshman class if approved before the end of the first nine weeks.

They are following the handbook on all procedures. There may be an issue with face masks, but they are working with the health department. They are working towards contact tracing on wearing masks. We are reporting as a diocese on reported cases. Schools quarantine is determined by specific location number of reported cases. All Catholic schools in the diocese are not shut down if one particular school is showing great numbers of cases.

Next Meeting September 23rd at 5:30 pm.

Closing Prayer

Adjourned at 6:16 pm