

# School Committee Meeting Minutes

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September 28, 2022 / 6:30 PM / School Library

## ATTENDEES

Members Present: Chris Multhauf, Kristina Watters, Erin Murphy, Kate Morgan, Jeremy Blackwood, Liz Albright, Heather Nosbusch, Jerry Levelle, Natalie Gasser, Stephanie Monsoon, Julie McKendry

\*Prayer- Chris Multhauf

\*St. Joseph Catholic School Mission Statement

## AGENDA

### Sub Committee Reports

- We need a vice chair for School Committee,
  - Jeremy Blackwood, will also then be on Budget Committee.

### Technology

- Kristina Watters

### PR & Development

- Heather Nosbusch, Stephanie Monsoon

### Policy

- Jeremy Blackwood Natalie Gasser
- Added Spirit wear Fridays and the students are allowed to wear casual bottoms, policy book needs to be updated to reflect this.
- Add details to the policy book about what is acceptable and what is not for uniforms, skirt and shorts length, etc. Fingertip appropriate as an example wording.

### Planning

- Liz Albright, Erin Morgan

### Budget

- Chris Multhauf, Emily Morgan, Jeremy Blackwood
- Some parents are tired of buying school supplies every year. What if parents pay a fee and have school purchase them? Mainly school supplies like paper towel, wipes, paper etc. Each class student could still get their own supplies – crayons, pens, folders etc. Could probably buy in bulk cheaper. Maybe give an option for parents to buy their own or pay a fee. Needs may change year to year. Parish will not have to pay tax.

## Principal Report

- Added Spirit wear Fridays and the students are allowed to wear casual bottoms.
  - We could also use more variety in the spirit wear collection.
  - There has not been any disruption to learning with increased spiritwear/casual days.
- Drop off/pickup procedures – We're aware that some parents are concerned. Initial motivation was student safety.
  - Parents liked the sense of community from gathering on the east side to chat with other parents.
  - We need flexibility for the current parking lot situation. Upper lot needs work too, drop off and pick up will be in lower lot for a period.
- We need to work on how we communicate. Ensure parents feel they are heard. We are providing opportunities for parents to come in to express any concerns. Coffee with the Principal. Ongoing effort.
- Input through anonymous surveys. Last week staff completed surveys on what works, what doesn't.
- Next week there is Teacher In-Service. Thursday (Spiritual component) Friday (Academic and structural). Students are off these days.
- We need to work on consistency within the structure. A bit of a mismatch between the grades.
- Chris is beginning to reach out to some high schools to find out what they were well prepared for, what they could have done better.
- School safety – Jim MacGillis came in and met with Chris, Lisa and custodian on procedures. He's invited us to attend Oct 12<sup>th</sup>, seminar on school safety. They will go through the school to see what could be made safer.
- Chris put together COVID proposal on what different counties, WI and CDC had for a good balance. Not as stringent as policies when it first came up. Follow HIPPA when children/staff catch covid. Out for 5 days instead of 10.
  - Communicating to parents when someone in class gets covid, Cluster vs. 1 case. Right now we communicate when several people have it but we will change to single case. Some people have elderly or people with health problems in their homes. Some parents might decide to limit their children's exposure to public if they know someone in their class has Covid.
  - Keep wording to encourage mask wearing even after 5 days quarantine. Chris will have Lisa put it in this week's newsletter and posted to websites as well.
  - Include wording to encourage testing but it is not mandatory when a child has symptoms.
- Oktoberfest funds will go towards locker project will likely go in phases.
- Liz – Dealing with special needs/ADHD/Epilepsy etc. St. Joe's could do better helping more in this arena. Liz reached out to people outside our diocese, Special Needs Scholarship Program for kids at private schools. Would be kind of easy since we're already a Choice school, it falls under the same audit. Our school would get \$13,000 per child for their needs. Currently have to contract out services to assist kids, often parents pay out of pocket. Parent pays upfront but gets money back year after year. Money gets pooled for use for all special needs kids since each one has different needs.
  - Stephanie said DSHA just started this program last year. Should think about how it works like Choice programs, there are only so many spots open for scholarships. We want to make sure we have the kids to fill the spots ahead of time. It's first come first serve. Need to make sure someone is on top of rules and paper work, etc. IOP needs to be in place.
  - There is also the 504 plan, which is a Federal plan. If a child has a medical condition but doesn't qualify for special needs. Meet with parents to see what we can do to provide for their needs.

- Some kids could use extra guidance but not necessarily special needs. Guidance counselor position is open, can we include the need for an interventionalist in the position? Can we make it full time instead of part? How can we fund this?
- Chris-interviewed with Holy Apostles principal on maybe a shared counselor. Most candidates wanted salaries way above what we can offer.
- Karen Lengell offered to help out some. Still figuring out how to work this out
- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade sacraments. Chris working with Stephanie McDermot, religion education director on how they can improve communication going forward. Want to make sure motivation is clearly presented. Overall motivation between parish and school. This year 2<sup>nd</sup> grade commandments are not being taught in school. Concerns about communication, purpose of doing this, bringing in an outside group to teach, length of retreat. Ms. Meyer is a great teacher for the sacrament, we want to stress how valuable her program was.
- Adoration after mass – cantors were 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys, did a great job. More communication in the future.

#### Teacher Report

- 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades are going to Madison Capital, 7<sup>th</sup> grade going to Finance ?, pumpkin farm trip is also coming up. They will rotate Capital and Old World Wisconsin trips year to year.
- Capuchin is going to come say a mass and thank us for carnival donations.
- Teacher opinion on drop-off/pickup procedure.
  - Younger grade teachers are usually meeting with parents during that time so they are missing out.
  - We are also talking about how to avoid teachers and students standing out in the rain, snow etc.
- Adding crosswalks when parking lot lines are painted.

#### Home and School Report

- 2 meetings have already been held this year.
- Ice cream social recap, at least half of school families attended.
- In service meal for teachers and breakfast 1<sup>st</sup> day of school.
- Oktoberfest – ticket games, dunk tank and inflatables. We did make money from the fest which will go to cookie house supplies and offset different activities like Trunk or Treat. Mother/son bowling, Father/daughter dance planning. Cookie house planning, we are getting close.

#### Pastoral Council

- Wants to invite School Committee to participate in Pastoral Council. At least 1 member to go to regular meetings, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month in upstairs Parish Center. Better direct communication between committees. Also, down to 6 current members, were at 12 previously. Will try to keep School Committee discussions toward start of the meetings.
- New mission statement will be coming out.
- Need someone from School Committee to sit on Endowment Committee. Financial well being of endowment for Catholic education. Erin Murphy will join, meetings on Tuesday.

#### **New Business**

- **Meeting Adjourned at 8:03p.m.**