

School Committee Minutes
May 11, 2016
IHM East-West Room

Call to Order: Secretary Bill Drake at 6:30pm.

Attendance: Matt Crockett, Michelle Corey, Bill Drake, Cindy Franco, Lisa Galbraith, Dave Gutierrez, Kelli Hansen, Angela Johnston, Kelly Johnston, Rob Schultz, Mark Shulick, John Szarowicz, and Mary Margaret Utess.

Unable to Attend: Angie Madden with notice.

- ◆ Those in attendance said the **opening prayer** and Bill read our **Mission Statement**.
- ◆ **Pastoral Comments** – Father Byers was unavailable for this meeting.
- ◆ **Introduction of guests** – There were no guests at this meeting. However, returning member Michelle Corey introduced herself to the Committee, and members then introduced themselves.
- ◆ The **April 13th Minutes** had been mailed earlier, and. Bill asked for any changes. There were none, and they were accepted by consent.
- **Athletic Advisory Council (Standing) Report** – Athletic Director Bill Devine was unavailable, but Angela asked everyone again to please consider playing or helping out with the Golf Marathon on June 4th. The event is in need of participants!
- **PTO (Standing) Report** – Angela and Bill attended the PTO meeting just prior to School Committee. They reported the group does have a full slate of new officers for next year as indicated in the School Bulletin. Other meeting topics included review of the successful teacher appreciation event, planning for the November School Auction, Honors Banquet, 8th grade graduation, May spirit event (popsicles at Field Day), etc.
- **Marketing (Standing) Report** - Angela reported the group is busy promoting enrollment at our school. She also indicated they have been involved getting all their efforts gathered into a more useable format. Copies of their annual calendar of events-and-initiatives, both in a list and a spreadsheet format had been mailed, and hard copies were made available. There was also a list of Parent and Student Opportunities which will benefit our school as they come to fruition.
- ◆ **Members Roundtable** – There were no issues brought up, but Dave did indicate he had attended a meeting held by Aaron Epkey, the director of IHM’s Family Faith Formation. The meeting on Tuesday evening (May 10) to explain the new program to parents. It will encourage families to attend a monthly session where students go off to have a lesson while parents are getting information on the topics (sic, ‘little lesson plans’) to "do" with their kids during the ensuing month. David thinks Aaron is a good speaker and encouraged the Committee to invite him to speak to us (Meet the Teacher night, for example) and partner with him in some way.
- ◆ Moving away from the agenda, a **Certificate of Appreciation** was presented to David Gutierrez shortly before his leaving the meeting for another appointment. Angela presented it to him in recognition and as a thank you for the four years he has served on the Committee and in recognition for his many contributions to our school both on the committee and in the larger school arena. He received a sincere round of applause from the Committee.
- ◆ **“Just Letting You Know”** – Angela reviewed her report to the School Committee for May and also segued into other items that were planned for agenda.
 - **Enrollment** for next year is hovering around 184-186, as of mid-May. Of note is that

“Just Letting You Know cont.

Kindergarten enrollment is at 24 at this time.

- She mentioned to the Committee members to put the September 21st and 22nd dates on their calendars for our **Accreditation Visit**. Visiting team members will want to chat with committee members, either over lunch or at some other time during those days. (Most likely times to be the afternoon of day one or the morning of day two.)
- Listing Special Classes for next year, she was pleased to say **Drama – 1st semester** WILL still be offered. There had been some question, but that bodes well for our Middle School Play initiative.
- The amount of **Title I and Title II funding** we received this year will be increasing for next year. Title I funds will go for Reading support and for Math support; Title II funds will be dedicated to Professional Development (bringing in speakers, etc.) As an aside to the title discussion, Committee members affixed their signatures to the annual certification document for that funding.
- Out of a growing concern for low Math scores in the Diocese and nationally, our school will continue to concentrate efforts in this area. As part of that initiative, our school will be making the **Moby-Max program** available this summer for Title I-eligible students. It is an on-line program for Math and Reading improvement, and teachers can monitor student participation. It is hoped Title I students will spend 30 minutes each day, Monday through Friday, to avoid the summer academic slump. Complete information will be forthcoming in the School Bulletin, but participants will be eligible for prizes (family-of-four excursions to Binder Park Zoo, Michigan Adventure, District 5, as well as fun Nights at Patriarche Park in June and July.)
- As noted in the standing Marketing Group Report (**above**), Angela referenced copies of the **Marketing Group’s** work that were mailed to Committee members earlier in the day.
- She then addressed her **SMART Goals** for the upcoming 2016 – 2017 school year. Responding to very new direction from the Diocese, Angela and the teaching team worked on these together during the past week. The Goals are still a work in progress, but great emphasis will be placed on spiritual goals as well as math and reading goals during the upcoming year.
- Angela provided part one of the revised format for **the School Strategic Plan**. It is another work in progress and will ultimately meld elements of the a) Smart Goals, b) the National Standards for school improvement, and c) the Strategic Plan information, into a more useable format. Angela thanked Committee member Kelly Johnston for lending his time-and-expertise in this area!
- Angela and Mary Margaret conducted an overview of our students’ testing results. They referred to two documents which had been mailed out earlier citing overall test results-by-subject for K-8 and also comparative results for scores versus NWEA and State of Michigan norms. Using the more user-friendly second document, they indicated our students’ results looked quite acceptable. However, Math scores at the middle school level indicate work is needed, which is also the case Diocesan-wide and nationally.

■ **OLD BUSINESS –**

- **Follow-up on any interest from school parents for School Committee membership.**
To lessen the impact of five other members leaving at the end of next school year, Committee members were asked to look for three qualified parents to serve as ex-officio (non-voting) members next year. (See April 13th Minutes.) As of this May date, at least two-or-three possibilities have surfaced, but commitments are still tentative.

■ **ANNOUNCEMENTS –**

- An updated edition of the School Committee Roster and the Committee meeting dates will be available at the August 10th meeting.

- ▶ **Petitions and Closing Prayer** - Our group joined in the Hail Mary for Nancy Murphy’s mom and sister; for former teacher Judy Cox; for Dr. Epolito and family, to include the new Bianca Rose who is doing very well; for Marsha Green and her aunt (hospice); for Tammy and Bill Clark; for a continued fruitful and successful enrollment program for next year ; for a successful and a “no-broken-bones” end-of-school year period; and lastly for a safe-and-sane summer period, as the students are suddenly “home more.”

ADJOURNMENT - Seeing no further business to conduct, Bill adjourned the meeting at 7:24 pm.

<u>Next Meeting:</u>	Date:	Wednesday, August 10.
	Location:	IHM East-West Room
	Time:	6:30pm
	Prayer:	All Pray the Opening Prayers
	Mission Statement:	Chair Angie Madden

Future School Committee Meeting Dates Will be available at the August 10th meeting.

Edited and Submitted by Bill Drake, Secretary to the School Committee

“IHM-St. Casimir Catholic School challenges students to discover God’s gifts spiritually, intellectually, socially and physically within a community that nurtures, honors and respects the unique person.”