

**School Committee Minutes**  
**November 9, 2016**  
**IHM East-West Room**

**Call to Order:** Bill Drake, for Chair Angie Madden, at 6:32pm.

**Attendance:** Matt Crockett, Bill Drake, Kelli Hansen, Angela Johnston, Kelly Johnston, Mark Shulick, Rob Schultz, John Szarowicz, and Mary Margaret Utess. Unable to attend: Michelle Corey, Cindy Franco, Lisa Galbraith, Angie Madden, and Nancy Murphy.

- ◆ Those in attendance said the **opening prayer** and Bill read our **Mission Statement**.
- ◆ The **October 12<sup>th</sup> Minutes** had been mailed earlier and Bill asked for any changes. There were none. Kelly moved for consent; they were accepted as such.
- **Athletic Advisory Council (Standing) Report** – Athletic Director Bill Devine was unavailable. Angela indicated boys basketball practice sessions are being bounced around to different sites due to demands from multiple teams. Also of note was the decision to purchase both jerseys AND shorts for girls basketball this year. Athletics garnered a nice price break by buying both garments at the same time!
- **PTO (Standing) Report** – PTO met in advance of the School Committee meeting. Angela and Bill provided information about the Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> Adult Night and Auction feedback (“well done and a lot of fun!”), a box top competition coming in February, the middle school play evening, St. Nicholas Day, Christmas Adopted families program, and brainstorming for Catholic Schools Week events.
- ◆ **Members Roundtable** – John Szarowicz noted how popular the classroom projects were at the Adult Night and Auction. He wondered if more items could be generated by each classroom to increase the income generated by the sale of the same. Angela and Mary Margaret responded that: the items cost approximately \$30 each for materials and firing; they are labor intensive and it is difficult to get enough help to do the projects; there were no minimum bids put on the items this year, and more than one were sold at a loss; the whole class project will be reviewed before the next auction event.
  - Angela asked for input from the Committee about “homework”. The fact that some students do not do it OR don’t remember to bring it from home is a big concern for the entire teaching team. They see opportunities being squandered on a daily basis, and the students’ shortcomings are going to be directly reflected in their grades. Angela asked the Committee for ideas to ensure students will do their homework *at home* as needed. Ongoing commitment on the part of the students and their parents is needed. *Parents* having the ability to support their children is another concern.

**Members Roundtable, (cont.)**

- Other helpful suggestions (more buddying up?) were set forth to help everyone be more successful. Angela reiterated the need for confidentiality when ‘families are helping families’. In closing, Angela thanked the Committee for all its input. She said she intends to review the Behavioral cognate of the Power School program for any ‘homework comments’ that might be included in the program.
  
- ◆ **“Just Letting You Know”** – Angela reviewed her report to the School Committee for November and commented on several items that are included in that report. Concerning ‘School Surveys’, there was not enough time to make copies for the Committee, but those will be available at the next meeting. Most comments were “Agree” and “Strongly Agree”. On a question about school starting so early, it is all directly related to Lansing School bus pick-up times and our need to attain the ‘teaching minutes’ needed each day. On the matter of Washington, D.C. trips in the future, a planning committee is working towards a time when Grades 8 and 7 would travel together every other year. This would result in a lower cost-per-student, less labor-intense planning by staff and parents, and the staff who are involved being able to spend more time *teaching* even during ‘travel years’. (Editor’s note: these tentative plans would not come to fruition until the travel year for this year’s Grade 5.)
  
- **OLD BUSINESS** – There were no items to review.
  
- **NEW BUSINESS (Two items)** – We have not received the **Accreditation Visit Report** to review, yet. Therefore, we are not able to begin our work on the **2016-2017 School Improvement Plan** yet, either. Both items will appear on future meeting agendas.
  
- **ANNOUNCEMENTS** –
  - Angela was pleased to announce our school is within 0.9% of attaining this year’s NWEA Math goal and within 1.4% of the Reading goal, this early in the year! It is felt these results stem from the summer program so many students participated in (and it further validates the efforts to ensure all students are doing their homework AND turning in their work!) Congratulations to everyone.
  
  - Angela asked everyone again to keep November 21<sup>st</sup> on their calendars for a 6:30 presentation by a **Neuro-development Specialist**. The program will focus on “*Why does my child (sic) do this, say that, or act like ....?*”
  
- ▶ **Petitions and Closing Prayer** - Our group joined in the Hail Mary for: Committee member Cindy Franco, for Nancy Murphy’s mom, in thanksgiving for Stacey, for Kendall (tonsils), for success with the middle school play, for improvement with our homework and completing-assignments initiative, for a rewarding and fruitful upcoming holiday season for our entire school family, and and for any other personal intentions.

**School Committee  
Page Three  
November 9, 2016**

**ADJOURNMENT** - Seeing no further business to conduct, Bill adjourned the meeting at  
7:27 pm.

<b><u>Next Meeting:</u></b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday, January 11, 2017</b>
	<b>Location:</b>	<b>IHM East-West Room</b>
	<b>Time:</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
	<b>Prayer:</b>	<b>All Pray the Opening Prayers</b>
	<b>Mission Statement:</b>	<b>Chair Angie Madden</b>

**Future School Committee Meeting Dates** **(All dates subject to change)**

**February 8**  
**March 8**  
**April 12**  
**May 10**

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.”*