

School Committee Minutes
August 10, 2016
IHM East-West Room

Call to Order: Chair Angie Madden at 6:32pm.

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

- ◆ Those in attendance said the **opening prayer** and Angie read our **Mission Statement**.
- ◆ **Administrator's Comments** – Father Byers greeted everyone and thanked them for their continued support of the staff and our school. He provided guidance as our school moves forward to meet the challenges of the new year, and he established protocol on how we will address any questions or concerns coming from both named and un-named sources. Fr. John indicated our school and staff have the full support of the Diocese in all the recent proceedings.
- ◆ The **May 11th Minutes** had been mailed earlier, and Angie asked for any changes. There were none, and Kelly moved to approve them by support. They were accepted by consent.
- **Athletic Advisory Council (Standing) Report** – Athletic Director Bill Devine was unavailable, but Angela included comments in her report (below).
- **PTO (Standing) Report** – PTO will not be meeting until September. Angela and Angie provided more information about the Nov. 4th Adult Night and Auction and indicated that “hilarious comedian” Duane Gill will be providing entertainment.
 - Note there will be no Family Picnic this year. It would have been the night after the re-scheduled Meet The Teacher Night date. However, the IHM Parish Picnic is just two days later, so it was felt it would be “just too much to expect of parents”.
- ◆ **Members Roundtable** –
 - Mary Margaret indicated she recently attended an “Ed Camp” and went to sessions for *Makerspaces* and *Genius Hour*. The sessions proved to be very informative and will lend themselves well for the Grade 6-8 *Critical Thinking* sessions that are held at the end of the day each Friday.
 - Michelle reiterated it would be helpful for parents to be made more aware of how to process concerns they might have with our school. The process is spelled out in the Student Handbook. That process (and the Suggestion Box near the office) will be mentioned by Staff in their meetings on Meet The Teacher Night. They will both be highlighted again in the Friday Bulletins.
 - Kelly also said parents need to come to realize there is a working process in place and that it does work!
 - Rob indicated the entire honors banquet discussion last spring served as a teaching moment in their home, i.e., always striving to do your best free of concern for labels-of-accomplishment.
 - Mark gave a sound vote-of-confidence to Angela and the entire staff for “the job they are doing” for our school and our kids.
- ◆ **“Just Letting You Know”** – Angela reviewed her report to the School Committee for August and also mentioned other items that were planned for the agenda.
 - **Enrollment** for next year is at 180, and we usually pick up another 8 – 10 students during August.
 - She mentioned to the Committee members to put the September 26th and 27th 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.

“Just Letting You Know cont.

- Angela provided the 48-page **School Improvement Plan** last week. She thanked Committee member Kelly Johnston again for lending his time-and-expertise in this area!
 - She went through an extensive review of where athletic practices and games will be held this year in light of not having an affordable St. Casimir gym available. The St. Therese site will be a major player, and other sites will be published when things are firmed up.
 - The Lansing Catholic High School will be the new site of the Middle School Play, the Winter Concert, and the Goeddeke Benefit Game.
 - We are pleased St. Vincent is gifting our school with one of their Counselors this year! (\$12,000 line item in our budget!) Blessings for Dr. Epolito as she will be remaining home to watch over Bianca!
 - Angela indicated the annual review of our Mission Statement is on-going. The Committee always reviews it, and it will also be reviewed by staff and student council.
 - She provided a few copies of the latest edition of the school budget. It takes into account current enrollment (180), and it also reflects cuts as driven by the changes with St. Casimir and its subsidy. It cites some subtle changes, but it also reflects a strong business operation and a commitment to provide a strong and meaningful education for our students. Copies of the 2016-2017 budget will be made available when it is finalized.
 - Angela also indicated there is some creative financing being proposed at the pastoral-and-Diocesan levels, (sic.), some of the taxation monies assessed to parishes with no schools theoretically being sent to IHM School.
- **OLD BUSINESS –**
- **Follow-up on any interest from school parents for School Committee membership.**
Former Committee member Colette Scrimger has expressed interest in returning. Angela emphasized the need to spread the word again about covering the five vacancies that will occur at the end of the school year.
- **ANNOUNCEMENTS –**
- **Congratulations** to Grade 3’s (Mr. and Mrs.) Joel Hoffman on the August 1st birth of their new daughter Camille!!
- ▶ **Petitions and Closing Prayer** - Our group joined in the Hail Mary for: Michelle’s son Andrew who has successfully moved past a heart event; Dr. Epolito and family (including baby Bianca Rose who continues doing well); out of gratitude for Angela’s direction in keeping our school “far ahead of the game” as measured by M.A.N.S. standards (Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools); for a successful enrollment program for this year; for a smooth return-to-school two week window; and finally, for a successful school year. Go Eagles!

ADJOURNMENT - Seeing no further business to conduct, Angie adjourned the meeting at 7:56 pm.

<u>Next Meeting:</u>	Date:	Wednesday, September 14
	Location:	IHM East-West Room
	Time:	6:30pm
	Prayer:	All Pray the Opening Prayers
	Mission Statement:	Chair Angie Madden

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Future School Committee Meeting Dates

(All dates subject to change)

**October 12
November 9
January 11, 2017
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."