

**DRAFT - School Committee Minutes**  
**January 10, 2018**  
**IHM East-West Room**

**Call to Order:** Chair Matt Crockett, at 6:32pm.

**Attendance:** Rick Artibee, Michelle Corey, Matt Crockett, Bill Drake, Kelli Hansen, Renee Hornby, Angela Johnston, Danielle Martin, Colette Scrimger, and Mary Margaret Utess.

Unable to attend: Lisa Galbraith, Kizito Ssemakula, Kelly Johnston, and Mario Medina, all with notice.

Guests in attendance included staff members Nicole Evans, Nancy Fink, Rose McBrearty and Pat Smydra.

- ◆ All joined in the **opening prayer** and Matt read our **Mission Statement**.
- ◆ **Administrator Comments** – Father John Byers wished everyone a happy New Year and thanked School Committee members for their good work and continued commitment to our school and its families. He also commended Mrs. Johnston for her performance during trying times and professed continuing support for her and the entire staff. He cited that face-to-face communication between all parties in any issues is critical. Fr. John also reviewed on-going efforts to ‘spread the good word’ in our community about all the great things going on with our school program and encouraged everyone to do the same.
- ◆ The **November 8<sup>th</sup> Minutes** had been mailed earlier and Matt asked for any changes. There were none, and Colette moved to approve. The minutes were approved by consent.
- ◆ **Athletic Advisory Council (Standing) Report** – Athletic Director Bill Devine was unavailable. Angela reaffirmed the need for volunteers at the upcoming basketball tournament, citing that a Sign-up Genius was available. She also said all revenues from concessions would be going into the IHM Athletic coffers to operate the program. Members were again encouraged to refer to Bill’s reports in the School Bulletin.
- ◆ **PTO (Standing) Report** – PTO met in advance of the School Committee meeting. Angela and Bill attended and learned about the group’s feedback on the successful St. Nicholas Day and Court Family Day, and about plans for the upcoming Catholic Schools week. Long-time staff rep to PTO **Marsha Green** also announced she will be **retiring** at the end of this year after 41 years of dedicated service to our school! That resulted in applause, thank you’s, and congratulations from everyone!

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- ◆ **“Just Letting You Know”** – Angela reviewed her report to the School Committee for January and commented on several items that were included in that report.
  - In the matter of the 2018-19 school **budget**, she is planning to review it with the Committee in February. She and Fr. John did indicate **tuition** is expected to increase by only five percent next year.
  - Concerning the annual **School Survey**, tentative plans are to make it available in both a hard-copy and an electronic format. Firm information will be in the School Bulletin concerning proposed distribution at the Winter Concert.
  - Much discussion occurred during this meeting concerning the **‘pledge letter’** that went home to parents (and to the events surrounding the need for such a Diocesan-authorized letter.)After many opinions were offered back and forth, some points became evident. First, School Committee members reaffirmed the Committee exists to support and to advise the administration in School matters. Secondly, they would expect to be consulted whenever grave matters such as the recent ‘kneeling issue’ surface. Everyone recognize the difficulty in trying to do that in the midst of the barrage of input, but it was hoped this would be learning experience and that advice and support would be sought out from the Committee. Angela concurred but did state there will still be future disciplinary matters that she will continue to handle without drawing in an array of people. “That is my job.”  
In light of the comments of Father John, Angela, and many others at this meeting about **communication** (both face-to-face and in a larger setting), the Committee expressed the need to remind parents to interact with School Committee members to ensure their concerns are being carried forward. It is also hoped parents will consider actually attending meetings to participate in discussions about our school. Bill will submit meeting information for the School Bulletin.
- ◆ **Members Roundtable** – Colette asked again for direction in the matter of “jeans”, in relative to the uniform guidelines. Angela replied staff had discussed the matter and still realizes the dilemma families face when looking for suitable clothes to adhere to the dress code. She said the uniform guidelines will remain as-written for now, and she and the staff will continue to handle individual concerns. It is an evolving process.
- **OLD BUSINESS** – A review-and-update of the School Committee By-Laws was on the agenda, time permitting. The length of discussions earlier in the meeting resulted in this review being tabled until at least the February meeting. Angela asked that everyone take a hard look at the By-Laws and be prepared to offer input at future meeting(s).
- **NEW BUSINESS** – There were no new items in this month’s agenda.
- **ANNOUNCEMENTS** - Note the February School Committee **meeting** will be on the first Wednesday of the month – **February 7<sup>th</sup>** - due to Ash Wednesday falling on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, the normal meeting day.
- **Petitions and Closing Prayer** - Our group joined in the Hail Mary for the Wilcox family on the loss of their patriarch, for Angela’s sister’s recovery, for staff members Joe Madden and Nancy Murphy; for Nancy’s mom; for Mary Margaret’s granddaughter (more surgery); for Nicole Evans’ dad; for our entire school family; for ‘world peace’; and for any other personal intentions.

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**ADJOURNMENT** - Matt adjourned the meeting at 7:47 pm.

<b><u>Next Meeting:</u></b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday, February 7, 2018</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 Matt Crockett</b>

**Future School Committee Meeting Dates:** (All Dates Are Subject To Change)  
**March 14**  
**April 11**  
**May 9**

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.”*