

**School Committee Minutes**  
**September 13, 2017**  
**IHM East-West Room**

**Call to Order:** Bill Drake, for Chair Matt Crockett, at 6:37pm.

**Attendance:** Rick Artibee, Fr. John Byers, Michelle Corey, Bill Drake, Lisa Galbraith, Renee Hornby, Angela Johnston, Danielle Martin, Colette Scrimger, Kizito Ssemakula, and Mary Margaret Utess.

Unable to attend: Matt Crockett, Kelli Hansen, Kelly Johnston, and Mario Medina.

- ◆ Fr. John offered the **opening prayer** and Bill read our **Mission Statement**.
- ◆ **Pastoral Comments-** Father Byers offered information concerning the proposed new multi-purpose area (“gym”) that will be built. It is tied in to the upcoming Diocesan “Witness To Hope” initiative. Parish leaders will be meeting with architect Dave Swanson this week for an update, and barring any extenuating circumstances, construction is expected to begin in August, 2018. The program will be announced at all Masses this weekend of September 16-17. Tentative proposals are to attach the gym structure to the north face of our school’s newly remodeled north building. Father fielded several questions about this initiative and indicated he is always available to answer further questions. In closing he encouraged everyone to consider attending the “**Heroic Families**” event at the end of September. He also highlighted the upcoming “**Do You Believe in Miracles**” program (sic, ‘Faith versus Science’ in life) that will make its way through Resurrection, St. Mary (Williamston), IHM, and St. Patrick’s (Brighton).
- ◆ **Self-Introductions** for all members in attendance took place. Each member referenced which grade they had children in at IHM and at Lansing Catholic High School.
- ◆ The **May 10th Minutes** had been mailed earlier and Bill asked for any changes. There were none, and the minutes were approved by support of Colette’s motion to approve .
- ◆ **Athletic Advisory Council (Standing) Report** – Athletic Director Bill Devine was unavailable. Angela indicated fall-season sports are underway, and she also indicated St. Therese gym will be used for practices again this year. There will be fewer timing conflicts, as the high school is using that facility very seldom. (A reminder from the May minutes that Our Savior Lutheran has been accepted into the league, and they have a very nice gym.)

- ◆ **PTO (Standing) Report** – PTO met in advance of the School Committee meeting. Angela and Bill attended and learned about the group’s plans for this year; about a necessary change to their by-laws; and about plans for the upcoming Adult Social on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  
- ◆ **“Just Letting You Know”** – Angela reviewed her report to the School Committee for September and commented on several items that are included in that report.
  - Review of Mission Statement is the annual inquiry about whether our statement is still accurate and whether it reflects “who we really are.” Everyone in attendance was comfortable with the statement as it is.
  - Current Enrollment for this year is 177, and she provided the most recent classroom census.
  - In addition to Personnel notes in her report, Angela also indicated Jeff Burdick is the school social work intern joining us this year (by way of funding from St. Vincent.)
  - She also briefed the Committee on the sizeable deficit the school had incurred by the end of last year. Though a deficit is usual, she enumerated several factors that led to a larger deficit amount. Details are available from Angela.

Angela and Renee Hornby also provided extensive feedback about the **Moby Max** (math) program over 90% of our students participated in, in varying degrees, this summer. (50% of the students did all the available lessons.) This resulted in student growth ranging from two months up to a year, and a couple even advanced from the year-mark all the way up to three years! (The program allows the teaching team to ‘track’ the students’ progress and to establish programs to help with their continued progress. Renee indicated that besides the growth, it was also evident students were more willing to take on challenges in math. Information was also provided concerning students who will be able to complete the work not completed during the summer by the end of the quarter. The underlying premise of Moby Max is to improve the students’ skills and not necessarily their grade scores. Angela indicated future programs will extend into Reading and eventually into other subjects.
  
- ◆ **Members Roundtable** – Several matters arose from those in attendance and were discussed.
  - Michelle suggested that parents be reminded to contact their representative(s) to the School Committee with questions, concerns, (or compliments.) “*Meet The Teacher Night*” would also be a good venue to pass the word to everyone.
  - Danielle wanted to confirm the October Committee meeting would be on the 11<sup>th</sup>. (The agenda listed it as both the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup>. (Bill’s bad...))
  - Rick asked for further clarification on Moby Max. He observed it was being used in the classroom as well as during the summer. Renee and Lisa Galbraith both assured him it serves as an effective supplement to the usual curriculum. The program will continue to be used at the discretion of the teacher. (As an aside, Renee also said it was a good idea for parents to let their students work on the program, unaided, to give them a chance to grow and progress.)
  - Colette felt the Google calendar is too abbreviated and doesn’t offer enough information. Staff will look into expanding the info parameters. Given her experiences at our school, she also passed along a draft of a calendar idea

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**Roundtable (cont.)**

citing potential requests-for-donations during the year. It could be well-used (especially for PTO mentoring efforts for new families) to take some of the surprises out of month-to-month family budgets. The idea will be revisited on the Old Business tab of the October agenda as appropriate.

- **OLD BUSINESS** – None this month.
- **NEW BUSINESS** – Refer to Angela’s “*Just Letting You Know*” September report for more information.
- **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Walk-a-thon and the Adult Night, per Angela’s report.
- **Petitions and Closing Prayer** - Our group joined in the Hail Mary for Nancy Murphy, for Nancy’s mom; for Deacon John, for Mary Margaret’s granddaughter (surgery), for our entire school family and the ‘gym project’, and for any other personal intentions.

**ADJOURNMENT** - Bill adjourned the meeting at 7:47 pm and thanked everyone for their attention and participation in this first meeting of the year.

<b><u>Next Meeting:</u></b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday, October 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 Matt Crockett</b>

**Future School Committee Meeting Dates: (All Dates Are Subject To Change)**

**November 15**  
**January 10, 2018**  
**February 14**  
**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.”*