

St. Catherine of Siena Board of Catholic Education
Minutes for Meeting of 1/2/2024

Opening Prayer: Board Members prayer

Roll Call:

Present: Father Stef, Juliane Brown, Jenny Collopy, Sarah Dinkelacker, Molly Geiger, Mike Jacks, Mike Ruwe, Becky Schill, Michael Schuh, Doug Marx

Absent: Colleen Copenhaver

Evaluation/Planning Committee Report

Becky Schill, Mike Ruwe

No new info

Public Relations/Marketing Committee Report

Jenny Collopy, Colleen Copenhaver, Molly Geiger

Author Event – On Sunday, 12/10/23, author Julianna Works read from her book, *Bugtown*.

Juliane Brown took the lead on this event. She reports that approximately 400 flyers were distributed to various preschools in the area. Despite this, no preschool families attended. Eight St. Catherine families attended. Four of those had been recruited to help.

Father Stef asked how we might improve attendance for future events.

Juliane suggested future promotions describe the starting time of the event to “right after mass” to make it more convenient for people.

Father Stef: despite the low turnout, thanks to Juliane for her work in producing the event.

Jenny: determine if any parishioners are children’s authors?

Mike Jacks: perhaps future author event could be connected to the Open House.

Fact Sheet

Nicole Sealy created the fact sheet.

Becky asked the group to come to the meeting with suggestions for improving the fact sheet. Various editing suggestions were given such as emphasize the after-school program is available to all students (not just K-3), emphasize integration nature of Catholic education, emphasize academics to demonstrate how St. Catherine compares to Ft. Thomas public schools

Becky suggested a one-page version for online and a two-page version for printed handouts.

It will eventually be in color. Two-page version will include quotes/testimonials from parents and/or students.

Becky will contact Nicole with revision ideas.

Policy Review Committee Report

Sarah Dinkelacker/Juliane Brown/Michael Schuh

No new info

Principal’s Report (Mike Jacks)

Catholic Schools week is 1/28/24 to 2/3/24. There will be a theme for each day.

Thursday 2/1/24 = Family Appreciation Day and Open House

- Dinner from 5:30-8:00
 - Various seating times
- School tours during dinner
 - Students lead the tour
 - Two parents give the presentation

Jenny: perhaps a transfer parent can speak

Molly: perhaps make an extra effort to invite families from the community

Michael: perhaps a raffle or a give away during Open House

Jenny: Or a passport for people on the tour to visit each classroom

Open House

Jenny offered the idea to upgrade Face Book outreach boost so that even people who do not follow St. Catherine would get a FB notification about the Open House. This would cost about \$500. Fr. Stef agreed to spend this.

Religious Education Report (John David Kimes)

-two sixth graders are interested in being initiated

-in need of 5th/6th grade catechist

-in the switch to Loretto, anticipated a decrease of students but an overall increase in numbers because of addition of parents

-it's a challenge to retain catechists

-reported challenge for parents getting comfortable talking about faith

-combining 9:00 and 11:30 masses has made for a more community feel

Pastor's Report (Father Stef)

Tuition increase

Fr. Steph has begun drafting a letter explain the tuition increase, explaining

- Rationale for increase
- Increase decided upon after consultation with St. Catherine boards
- Parish will still subsidize 50% of tuition
- This increase is still below average tuition for the diocese
- History of St. C School tuition
- Increase is because we have not been charging enough – so to catch up

Michael suggests phrasing such as “we’ve done xyz but it has not been enough”

Mike Jacks: the registration fee is still one of the lowest in the diocese

PTO Update:

Fr. Steph asks if the Buddy program where mentor family assists new family is still in place.

PTO ran the Buddy program previously but it is inactive.

Discussion about Buddy program to continue Mike Jacks will see that it happens.

Closing Prayer:

Sarah

Next meeting:

2/6/23

Fr. Steph states he may be out of town 2/6.

Decision will be made whether there is an agenda to warrant 2/6 meeting.

Adjournment