

St. Catherine of Siena Board of Catholic Education
Minutes for Meeting of 3/3/2020

Opening Prayer: Nancy Browning

Roll Call: Present: Father Stef, Julie Scherer, Kip Perkins, Carol Smith, Judy Newberry, Jen Kirst, Nancy Browning, Gwen Fields, Raymond Schlosser, Ashley Cox, Sarah Weinel Absent: Excused:

Pastor's Report (Fr. Stef)

Father said he had spoken with the bishop about placing the emphasis on faith formation in our promotion of Catholic education, especially at the grade school level. We seem to emphasize that our Catholic schools in general are not going to be at a disadvantage in curriculum and test scores etc. in comparison to public schools. He wanted to keep the focus on the faith formation.

Principal's Report (Julie Scherer)

Update on marketing and results of working with our consultant (Mike Gill): New Logo and tag line: Believing. Achieving. New letterhead and physical stationary and digital formats with that tag line are now in use. We have a new tri-fold brochure. There were new open house brochures that went out through church bulletins and we targeted certain neighborhoods distributed by students and their parents. We distributed yard signs for open house. In progress: we continue to update the web page, especially the admissions page. He is also coming up with idea starters for promoting middle school. Julie felt that our investment had been worth it. We definitely had more who attended open house. Currently there 133 students registered plus 2 additional that are expected. 20 people attended open house and 8 registered. There were 7 additional people who were actually looking for the following year. We haven't heard back from some contacted again. 6 were for kindergarten next year and 1 was first grade.

Eighth graders write an essay on respect for life. We had one who qualified as a finalist. We have not had a winner in quite a while.

Budget: Initial review of day-to-day expenses with comparison to the prior year. The new MAPP testing will provide more data that can track student progress over the course of the year. There are plans to update the math textbooks that will be phased in over the next few years. One series is intended for K-5 and then another series for 6-8.

Religious Education Report (Kip Perkins)

Budget: Presented a draft of his budget for the CCD program. Father said that this budget did not need to include Adult Education and RCIA. Those will be in another area of the parish budget. Kip said that there is the possibility of a new textbook series from the diocese that is currently being considered.

Evaluation/Planning Committee Report (Nancy Browning)

Possible Board Goals for 2020-2021

- Technology Wish List
- Update the preschool plan
- Blue Ribbon substitute
- Math cycle review
- Complete/update the marketing plan
- Middle school focus committee
- Finalize school policies and board constitution
- Possible facility update needs.
- Increase our BOCE communication and purpose with the public

Policy Review Committee Report (Gwen Fields, Raymond Schlosser)

Minutes: Approved as submitted

Policy 8.0

Father wanted to add some wording to point 8 that would cover both circumstances of before and after an abortion.

Change Catholic Social Services to Catholic Charities in paragraph 1.

Policy 9:

Julie was not happy with the policy and the current situation. She wished she could create a schedule that would not matter if there was half day kindergarten but that hasn't been possible.

This year all of the kindergarten students are full day. Next year one student out of 16 is registered for half day. That could alter the specials schedule lunch schedule etc.

Policy 10 accepted with a few minor wording adjustments.

Policy 12 Service:

There was a discussion about hours for serving mass. The board felt that serving at a mass when not obligated to be there should count (e.g Wednesday evening, Tuesday morning daily mass.)

Policy 13: Dismissal

First reading seems to still be OK as presented.

Policy 14:

There was some discussion about the times for both before and after school supervision.

What are the consequences for students who are not being picked up or dropped off.

There were concerns for the legal liability.

Policy 16

There were some discussions to make some of the wording a little more general.

(Final read in August)

Public Relations/Marketing Committee Report (Jenn Kirst, Ashley Cox, Sarah Weinel)

Jenn had sent an email to Nancy to review the PTO's meeting look especially at what they could do to help promote the marketing aspects of the school. Nancy had responded prompting Julie's report tonight. They proposed a subcommittee of their own to help promote the marketing. The father daughter dance was a success. There will be a mother/son dance in May. They reported on other fund raising. They will be transitioning the leadership board at the end of the year. Next meeting is March 19th.

Ashley and Sarah suggested that the board get an email address to promote connections to the board to be posted on the web page. Julie will set up the email address. Suggestion was also that the board be linked under both the parish organization and the school links on the web page.

Sarah and Ashley were happy that we had gotten outside professional help for the web page and market that fit. His work had subsumed much of the goals. The proposal was to have a Catholic education float for the Fourth of July parade. (Sarah will research the application needed for the float) She also wanted to still have a forum for collecting parent and student testimonials for the website. Nancy also asked for help to make sure the board meeting is in the parish bulletin and in the school announcements in time for publication etc.

Finance Meeting; They were waiting on the enrollment and budget information but there was no other specific school related items.

Parish Council: They reviewed the diocesan plan and that feedback will be shared at the deanary meeting.

Faculty: 4th and 5th graders participated in the Regional competition of governors cup had several students placed in the writing and the team placed first in the region. Several grade levels will be putting on their plays.

Adjournment:

Closing Prayer: Carol