

St. Catherine of Siena Board of Catholic Education
Minutes for Meeting of February 5, 2019

Opening Prayer:

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

Pastor's Report (Fr. Stef)

We received a report back from Don Knochelman who was the original contractor approved to do the building expansion by the diocese. He declined. He sent the plans to a couple of people. One group estimated an amount in excess of \$1 million but that is so far above our original estimate of more like \$500,000 as to put the project in jeopardy as originally. We need to go back to finance committee to see what we can do. Father wanted to discuss with Julie about what she saw the educational needs with regards to the physical space of the school now that she has had some time in our school.

We have having difficulties with the new process of how the cafeteria is being administered through the diocese. Nancy was concerned about the impression this would make about the financial circumstances of school not understanding how the program is part of a diocesan wide system. Our lunch program has traditionally run in the black and ended up helping other programs in the diocese. Should this go to PTO to gauge reaction to the prospect of no cafeteria? What would be the reaction to closing the cafeteria and having the students pack because of the complications involved in staying in the program as it now exists? We will evaluate the lunch program in the remainder of the year.

Fahter Stef expressed concern about the script of the proposed play because of references to witches and wichen religion but we haven't had the opportunity to read the entire script. He would like to have a meeting to review if this play is appropriate for our students.

Father had an out of parish family contact him but are not catholic. They wouldn't be opposed if the student were to convert. They wanted to know if they could join the parish for in parish tuition. Father Stef asked the opinion of the board. The consensus was that the in parish tuition was intended for active catholic members of parish and that it would not set a good precedent.

Principal's Report (Julie Scherer)

ACRE testing this week.

The after school program with Title 1 money will change to Natural Learning as opposed the CASA computer program. We have received Title monies from Dayton and Fort Thomas. Newport's program restrictions were excessive. The money has to be used with

students from that school system. We have some first and fifth graders this year that have been identified as benefitting from assistance.

We had our open house. We saw about 15 new families. Right now we seem to have a base of about 10 additional students. (Julie, can you please clarify this. I wasn't really sure if this was correctly representing the numbers from your report on the open house.) The grant for the Professional Development trip to the Atlanta program was approved.

Religious Education Report (Theresa Broering)

The CCD students are also taking the ACRE test on this coming Sunday.

We continued with sacramental development. We have many eight grade students and we will be looking to try to find enough service opportunities for the confirmation candidates.

We finished the safe environment training

Evaluation/Planning Committee Report (Nancy Browning)

Nancy was asked to present to the PTO in March (She may end up swapping months with Fr. Stef who was invited for February.)

We did make our gift card donation for the Belles and Boots

Policy Review Committee Report (Gwen Fields, Raymond Schlosser)

Gwen sent out the first few policies to review for the March meeting. She highlighted items she found the needed to be changed because of factual changes.

We continued the review of Articles II and III of the Bylaws.

- Membership: 9 voting members in the current bylaws will be reduced to 6 consulting members/consultants responsible for forming a consensus of board members in their role of providing advice to the pastor and educational program administrators.
- A new ex officio member will be added for a faculty representative.
- Members may serve a second consecutive term. (Remove second?)
- The mission statement review for the board was tabled pending the evaluation of the school mission statement that was recommended from last year's evaluation. The board's and school's mission statements should be consistent with each other.
- Delete new member committee reference. Final discernment between the pastor and volunteer. (Generally Fr. Stef wanted to return to the selection that is outlined in the current by laws for both the board of education and other parish committees.)

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

PTO met in late January. About 30-40 attended. There is one account for fund raising. We had the science fair at the same time. Father Stef was invited for February but may switch with Nancy. They did a father-daughter party. They are planning a trivia night. At

the end of January a survey went out. They are compiling the results of the survey for further recommendations.

Finance met and we will need to increase registration fee by \$20 to \$185. Father is will to report on what the fee is intended to cover. Tuition will go up 4%.

They discussed the need for a new oven in the cafeteria.

There hasn't been a formal discussion of the fund raising, but the informal discussion questioned the need of a policy.

Julie responded that there has been only one assembly that touched on fund raising and it hasn't impacted greatly on instructional time.

Adjournment:

Closing Prayer: