

St. Catherine of Siena Board of Catholic Education
Minutes for Meeting of 4/5/2022

Opening Prayer: Sarah Weinel

Roll Call: Present: Mike Jacks, Kip Perkins, Juliane Brown, Jenny Tallarigo, Sarah Weinel, Raymond Schlosser

Absent:

Excused: Father Stef, Judy Newberry, Becky Schill, Sarah Dinkelacker

Principal's Report (Mike Jacks)

Mike has 3 goals for this year: enrollment, teacher effectiveness, and academic rigor.

For enrollment, we currently have 117 students enrolled for next year. Since the last board meeting, we had 2 more scheduled tours- both in kindergarten (one has enrolled, and one is deciding).

For teacher effectiveness, Mike is still working with the staff on teacher clarity where the students understand exactly what we want them to learn and understand success criteria, so students do not have to guess at what is expected. The last meeting covered breaking down teacher standards to help map curriculum for the next week, month, year, etc. Looking at the standards, we broke them down into nouns (concepts) and verbs (skills). An example is the 4th grade English standard (to determine the main ideas of a text and explain how it is supported by key details). Teachers want to make sure their plan aligns to the main idea, key details, and text. Teachers want students to have an opportunity to master the standard. Clarity starts with the standard. Mike is approaching all faculty from the mindset of beginning from the ground up. Those who understand teacher clarity can mentor those who do not. When Mike pushes for professional learning communities, he wants teachers to be able to connect what we are doing with the standards, the expectations of the lesson, the assessment of the lesson, and next steps, which leads to mastery. Key questions to ask include: Where are we going? Where are we now? How do we get there? What are the checkpoints along the way? Once there, how did we do?

For increasing academic rigor, we want to make sure students are able to use what they've mastered for life (to become lifelong learners). If it is something new, we are exposed to it, explore it, and then connect it to previous learning. Think of your brain having all these synoptic firings that make connections and this is how you learn. What is interesting is that all the dendrites that you have you been born with, and we need to make connections, branch and grow the dendrite connections. In the classroom, we do a lot of groupings, comparing, contrasting, similarities, and differences. Then, we get the students to talk or write about what they have learned and make learning their own. This was not happening much at St. Catherine when Mike first started as principal. There was an opportunity in the lesson to get students to own their own learning and solidify what they learned – to make it long term. It is not a lot of extra time to add this into the lesson. Teachers talk a lot and students listen. Mike is trying to bring about a change in that. Teachers do not have to talk as much as they do. An example would be to ask a question and instead of having one student answer the question, give everyone 10 seconds of think time, then have everyone turn to a partner and share responses. The teacher can listen and

gauge where everyone is and ask students if they agree with the other student's comments, etc. This is when learning becomes student owned.

Kip noted that the student's writing for service hours enriches the service hours based on this approach.

Noteworthy:

Mr. James Hubbard passed away. He taught at St. Catherine of Siena for 3 years. Mike knew him as a fellow principal when Mr. Hubbard was at Holy Trinity and Mike was at IHM. Before coming to St. Catherine of Siena, Mike was excited to learn that Mr. Hubbard was on staff here. Mr. Hubbard was very quiet, but a great storyteller and this worked well for social studies. Mr. Hubbard was 52 and leaves behind 3 children and a wife. This has been a growth experience for everyone here. Mike wanted to share the news in a way that was developmentally appropriate and stayed up most of the night trying to determine the best way for the junior high to come together and process this loss. Mr. Hubbard's wife, Jennifer is very complimentary of our school and appreciative of our prayers, rosary, etc. We have invited her here a few times. She purposely scheduled the funeral for a Friday evening so the students could attend and not have to worry about school the next day. 6th Grade parents are working to donate a plaque in Mr. Hubbard's honor, a few are also considering a dedication/revitalization of Mr. Schlachter's garden.

Grades 4-8 completed their 4-H speeches. Mike was very impressed with how the children presented themselves in the speeches.

Every school in the diocese administered the ARK (assessment of religious knowledge) to get a pulse on the student's knowledge and affective domain of that knowledge. CCD completed the assessment this past Sunday. We should receive results mid-April.

Reconciliation was beautiful, very reverent, and upbeat. Thanks to Kip for arranging.

Last year, the KY department of education published some funds and Julie wrote to obtain some of these funds. We were able to get a considerable amount of funding. Our first purchase was a laptop for each teacher so they could have a laptop at home. The school laptops are needed at school on the weekends for CCD/smart board use. There will be new smartboards in each classroom, more computers in the building, program and software purchases, video handheld cameras for the classrooms. Many things will be coming in that will be extremely useful.

Our Lenten Journey with Jesus is going well. We currently have the Lenten Madness project (like March Madness but with saints competing). Each day, 2 Saints compete and move to the next round. This went from 32 teams to the Saintly Sixteen to the Elate 8 to the Faithful 4 Round, and to the Halo Grand Winner. Also, we are doing the Coin Competition for Ukraine.

Coming Up:

April 13: 8th Grade Passion Play

April 14-22: Spring Break

April 24: Jesus Day

April 29: St. Catherine's Feast Day

April 30, May 1, May 6, May 7: A few of our students are in NCC's upcoming Les Misérables production put on by Kelly Lorenz: Mason in 5th, Alex in 7th, and Gia in 4th.

Spring MAP Testing – Mike will be delivering the results to the board in a future meeting.

Religious Education Report (Kip Perkins)

No classes to honor Ft. Thomas spring break. Classes will be meeting again this coming Sunday to review the Diocesan Safe Environment lessons. There will be no meeting for Easter, so the lessons are a bit choppy for April. Jesus Day is on April 24th. First communion will be the following Sunday and Confirmation will be on May 9th with a day-long retreat followed by liturgy in the evening.

Evaluation/Planning Committee Report (Sarah Weinel)

Colleen Copenhaver and Jenny Collopy will be joining the board at the May meeting. Sarah Weinel's last meeting will be in May, but she will be helping to coordinate our participation in the 4th of July parade.

Policy Review Committee Report (Juliane Brown and Sarah Dinkelacker)

The Retention Policy, Health and Wellness Policy, Constitution and Bylaws were finalized, and board approved via email. Awaiting Fr. Stef's final approval.

Public Relations/Marketing Committee Report (Sarah Weinel and Jenny Tallarigo)

March meeting minutes were approved.

The Scavenger Hunt will be held on April 30th at noon for preschool up to 2nd grade. Invitations were extended to local preschools. Some junior high students will be on hand to provide school tours and answer questions. A Facebook post has been added but we could use some help circulating the invite. The Foresters will be providing prizes.

Sarah has obtained quotes from all the students and will start uploading to The Stable.

We have enough brochures and paper summaries for the 4th of July parade, Scavenger Hunt, and school tours. We tried to give parents with younger children the brochure at the parade while everyone else received the paper handout with a popsicle. 4th of July Parade planning meeting will be scheduled soon.

The Non-Public School Association surveys will be going out next school year. In the meantime, we pulled in content from the previous surveys/added some new questions and will distribute to parents, students in grades 5-8, teachers, and staff pending final approval from Fr. Stef. Each survey is about 3-6 minutes. Once launched, a copy of the surveys will be loaded to the board's Google drive. This data will prove to be valuable for planning next school year and understanding the thoughts/opinions of all stakeholders.

Next meeting is Tuesday, May 3

Closing Prayer: Sarah Weinel

Adjournment: We will be meeting in May and then not again until August.