

St. Catherine of Siena Board of Catholic Education
Minutes for Meeting of 2/1/2022

Opening Prayer: Becky Schill

Roll Call: Present: Father Stef, Mike Jacks, Judy Newberry, Becky Schill, Kip Perkins, Juliane Brown, Jenny Tallarigo, Sarah Dinkelacker
Absent: Raymond Schlosser, Sarah Weinel
Excused:

Pastor's Report (Father Stef)

James Hubbard, our 6th grade teacher of math and social studies is in serious condition in ICU. Father asks for prayers for Mr. Hubbard.

The parish mission is February 14th-16th. Father encourages us all to attend. Deacon Poyo will also be visiting the students at school.

The Chris Collinsworth ProScan Fund offers a chess program for students. They provide one hour of instruction per week and ten chess sets at no cost to the school. We can allow up to twenty students to join right away and we can start at any time. We have a parishioner who does this at St. Therese and there are a lot of benefits to playing chess. Father provided the information to Mike for further consideration.

Principal's Report (Mike Jacks)

Happy Catholic Schools week! We keep Christ centered every week here at St. Catherine but really focus this week on why we are Catholic.

Since the fall, we have had 29 students and 7 staff test positive for Covid. We currently have one staff member and 7 students testing positive. Four of the students are asymptomatic. We will continue to wear masks this week and if we get to 5 positive cases or under for a small school like St. Catherine, we will make masks optional. Mike looks at the data every week.

Mike's top three goals for the year are increasing enrollment, teacher effectiveness, and academic rigor. For increasing enrollment, our Open House last week had a total of 22 families in attendance: 17 for kindergarten (5 are current), 2 for first grade (both current), 3 new others for 1st, 2nd, and 5th grades, a shadow date scheduled for a 5th grader, and 2 tours scheduled for prospective families (kindergarten and 5th grade). Our student ambassadors did a great job- a lot of the families praised them. We created a script and the students practiced ahead of time. Official registration started yesterday and ends on February 10th, but we allow for registration to continue up to the beginning of next year's school year.

For teacher effectiveness, we are really digging into teacher clarity (teachers being very clear about what we want the students to learn and how will they know if they have successfully learned the information). There are three questions that help the teachers and students to ask of themselves:

- 1) What am I expecting the students to learn/What am I learning?
- 2) Why do I want them to learn it/Why am I learning it?
- 3) How will I know if my students are learning it/How will I know that I have been successful at learning it?

When Mike walks through the school and asks what students are learning, they often answer with what they are doing vs. what they are learning. Mike is hoping that as this clarity focus is rolled out, students will be able to explain what they are learning. Clearly knowing the learning goals sets the students up for success (the how). We should be clear with the students about what we expect.

Father mentioned that Richard Feynman, one of the best physics teachers who ever lived, always asked the why and the what. Mike noted that, in education, we sometimes look at the what, then the how, and then the why. In lesson planning, you need to start with the why.

For academic rigor, MAP scores are still out. The Diocese gave us an extension due to the number of illnesses. It is exciting to note that 89% of our students met their winter MAP goals. Remember, that in the fall, we set individual and class scores based on last year's spring scores for all grades 1-8. Teachers then met to discuss what realistic goals would look like. The higher the score, the harder it is to go up and show growth.

We are also focusing on vertical alignment and asking why we are teaching a certain topic. For example, many teachers focus on Native Americans and Thanksgiving but only two grades have this in their standards. Sometimes teachers spend several weeks teaching about Native Americans and it is not in their curriculum. It is nice to know, but what are they not teaching to focus on this? We are not there yet but we are starting to discuss the five ins and five outs - what do teachers expect of students coming in and out of each grade? We are doing this broadly with all content – religion, science, math, reading, social studies. We are looking to close any gaps before the end of the year to ensure students get to all the necessary material and do not over-study material that prevents them from getting new material.

Noteworthy:

- Our junior high academic team won the district Governor's Cup and is headed to regionals.
- Also, Kenny Collopy, principal of NCC, is looking to further strengthen the connection between the feeder schools and NCC. This is important to do this with the younger grades, not just junior high. Tomorrow, 20 NCC students will spend time with the 3rd and 4th graders to help and do different activities with them. We are also trying to align to a similar school calendar for next year to accommodate families that are both at feeder schools and at NCC. The principals decided to start holding monthly meetings to discuss important topics like safety, crises management plans, and reunification. For example, if we had to evacuate the school for some reason, how would we help each other in a disaster/need? Networking works and we should not be islands. Mike has worked with the high schools in the past and this has gone well.

Upcoming Dates:

- First Reconciliation
- In a few weeks, the junior high will have their play, “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown.” Auditions and scenes are well under way. Props are being painted and costumes are in.
- 4th and 5th grade is headed to Governor’s cup on February 8th.
- There is a middle school committee meeting on February 10th to talk about where we want to go with the middle school committee and where we have gone thus far.

Religious Education Report (Kip Perkins)

Reconciliation for second graders is on Thursday (note: rescheduling due to inclement weather). It is a big class (32 students).

Service hour reflection papers for Grades 5th-8th are due now. The fall papers were very good. One student even coordinated a food drive in their neighborhood. Father asked Kip to pull together a summary of the reflection pages. We need to provide direction to the teachers and students especially since the reflection papers are a new process.

Kip went to the CRE meeting that occurs once a year. There is a change in the way we will be teaching safe environment to our students. In the past few years, the Family Nurturing Center did a puppet show but the new program will pertain to all grades and is generated by the diocese. There is a process to notifying parents and distributing the lesson plans. The program will be rolled out twice a year and will continue until the 8th grade.

Assessment of Religious Knowledge (ARK) tests will be sent out soon. We changed the curriculum to all grades vs. just 5th-8th grades. The assessment will now be for 2nd-8th grades and catechists.

Evaluation/Planning Committee Report (Becky Schill)

We now have a Google drive established for the board to access and have everything in one place. As soon as we receive the electronic copy of the constitution from Raymond, we will distribute binders to the board and send the constitution to the families. Also, minutes are on the website and in the weekly announcements.

We need to find another board member. Raymond was staying on to finish the constitution. Please let Father Stef know if anyone comes to mind.

Policy Review Committee Report (Juliane Brown and Sarah Dinkelacker)

We are on the promotion policy draft. Mike wrote the latest revisions. We added that the final grade promotion decision rests with the principal. Science and social studies are integrated into other content for 4th and 5th grades so they are not a promotion requirement. In junior high, they are a definite criterion for promotion as science and social studies have their own classes. Therefore, we split the requirements by 4th-5th grade promotion and a 6th-8th grade promotion. A student must pass all three of the key subjects (language arts, math, religion). If one or two are failed, summer work can be completed. A student cannot fail all three subjects. Behavior and special needs will be covered by an individual alternate learning plan (ALP) and their

requirements will be dictated in that plan. Mike will send the revised policy to Father for one more review and then the board will review one final time.

The board will review the health and wellness policy in the next meeting. Father will follow up with the diocese on the remaining outstanding policies (non-discrimination, pregnancy, and search and seizure). We will strive to revise one policy per meeting to complete all policies this year.

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

Juliane and Jenny asked for ideas for an Easter preschool outreach. Mike was very supportive of getting the word out. All three preschools approved the candy canes at Christmas, but more daycares and preschools approved distributing Open House materials due to Kelly's hard work so we're trying to reach out to as many preschools and daycares as possible. Father mentioned the church is happy to help with the outreach if the costs are reasonable and asked that the board keep the theme more overtly religious. An Easter prayer for the family to say with the children might be a good idea to evangelize to both students and parents and show the importance of our faith at St. Catherine.

Next year, the Kentucky Non-Public School Commission will be distributing surveys to different stakeholders throughout the St. Catherine community. This year, we are planning to distribute parent surveys to get a head start. This survey will use the questions from the most recent accreditation survey and will include an exit survey for any parents of children who are not returning. Mike could not locate an exit survey after 2007 but the diocese requires Mike to ask these questions of any exiting families. Becky said there is value to the surveys especially now since we do not have a lot of opportunities to meet at the school- this will give us the opportunity to understand good and bad feedback. Jenny will create a survey draft and distribute to the board for review.

Representative Updates

PTO Update: (Mike Jacks)

- PTO has been doing a great job appreciating teachers during this Catholic Schools Week. We appreciate everything they are doing. Elections will be coming up in the Spring.
- Brick's Catering Dine to Donate will be the week of February 15th.
- Amy Muench has been doing a great job featuring the grades with parent quotes on the Facebook pages.

Next meeting is Tuesday, March 1

Closing Prayer: Father Stef

Adjournment: