



HCS Advisory Council Minutes from Thursday, November 30th at 6:30 PM.

Opening Prayer was led by Father Joseph.

Attendees: Dr . Rick Erickson, Fr. Joseph, Gary Kraus, Justin Schneider, Jenna Lawless, Grant Nadler, Kristi Wilkum, Melissa Bink, Jon Karls, Brant Breuer, Dena Entringer

Absent: Fr. Gary

No changes were proposed to the September meeting minutes.

Standing Committee Updates

Education: Sara Jacobs is stepping down from the committee chair so the committee is seeking a replacement. Kristi will put a blurb in the newsletter to publicize the need for a replacement.

Finance/Treasurer's Report:

Fundraising Recap of the year:

Charitable Social: \$9,600

Pizza Sales: \$5,500

Sports Raffle: \$6,800

Fish Fry \$2,700

Golf Outing: \$17,300

Women's Night \$16,100

Financially the school is in good shape; only threats to that are a major catastrophe or loss of staff.

35 year Trust fund update (\$52K) – Dr. E and Fr. Gary are going to reinvest it in a Franklin Templeton account to gain more interest. Purpose of the trust fund is to have dollars set aside if the school closes so there is money to allocate to families to pay tuition elsewhere.

Fundraising: Katie Karls is working on consolidating the fundraising efforts into one larger event. Working on a calendar raffle, plan to begin selling in April with prizes/money to be won every day. Potential Easter pancake breakfast with the raffle/Easter bunny. Pizza sale begins on 12/11. Next month, Dr. E will apply for a grant through the Fond du Lac Foundation to go toward a new science classroom.

Home & School: Met this week. The split lunch began this year. It's difficult to keep food warm and volunteers need to stay longer. Positive effects are the kids are eating more. Will be reviewed at the end of the school year to see if the split lunch should continue.

Marketing/Recruitment: Bowling event occurred last month which had a great turnout. Kristi is continuing the newsletter and welcomes any/all content/questions from parents.

Future Make-up of the School Advisory Committee (Fr. Gary topic): By-laws state the SAC is to be made of 7-9 members, 2 per parish minimum. There were varying discussions, some suggested keeping as is while others suggested to change according to parish size. Currently the parishes are billed according to parishioner size: 52% St. Isidore, 32% from St. Johns, 16% Marytown. The ending comment is we are operating now within the current by-laws. This decision will be tabled until the January meeting.

Recruitment (Jon K topic): How do we get the word out about the school? Is the cost of coming to this school barrier, even though we're one of the lowest cost schools in the diocese? New Holstein sends fliers out for 3K and 4K screening, likely getting their mailing list of kids/addresses per public birth records. St. Paul Lutheran has also sent fliers to families; we're not sure how they developed their mailing list. Currently, fliers are passively distributed at local day cares.

Preview dates set for 2018, which are advertised in the bulletin and local papers: Kindergarten Preview Feb 23rd, Pre-School Preview Mar 16th.

Action Items from Recruitment discussion:

- Kristi will draft a letter that will be personalized to the list of up-and-coming preschoolers. She will also look at obtaining a resource to draft a postcard for general mailing to the community.
- Grant will call to try to find out if we can obtain New Holstein birth records.
- Jenna will reach out to Kayleen for St. Mary's baptismal records.
- Dena will reach out to Lori for St Isidore baptismal records.
- Everyone else to bring lists of potential families, with their child's name/age, address if possible.
- Will review/consolidate all of the above in the January meeting.

Change in Calendar Discussion 2018/2019: Dr. E is researching the idea of a college calendar, having the children be completed with the first semester before Christmas so they may truly have a break. This idea is stemmed from research of the increased rate of depression/anxiety in children ages 12-14 years old. There is concern from some about deviating too much from New Holstein's school calendar. Some think it would have a positive impact on the children and be a good mental break. A question was proposed by Jon asking if the two semesters need to have an equal amount of days, Dr. E was unsure and will explore this question. This conversation was tabled and we will plan to discuss again in January.

Dr. E Report:

Unsolicited donations received this year: Received a \$10K for reading program, \$10K for tuition assistance \$5K from two anonymous sources. The school is putting this money into restricted funds to help cover anything that is unbudgeted.

A teacher will be attending a School Choice meeting, which will hopefully draw in more students to the school.

Penny collection for hurricane victims, raised \$500 dollars. 140+ items (194 lbs) of goods donated to Holyland Food Pantry. Upcoming community outreach: Sock Drive for Solution Center in FDL. Cookies for shut-ins at Christmas.

Printer contract: We are up for renewal, should we buy or lease? Need to factor in the life expectancy of the machine. Concern about purchasing a machine was the cost to repair/service where the leasing contract may include some of those expenses.

Internet service: Frontier is the only service currently provided and it's not reliable. We're 12K feet from Spectrum's line. Dr. E is willing to look at any/all other options to improve the school's service. Dena will ask her brother for information as he is knowledgeable about carriers in the area.

Accreditation process is continuing with AdvancEd.

Three cases of bullying currently at the school. Policy is the teachers will notify the parents first and elevate as needed following that. Dr. E has met with and discusses with the three aggressors and their parents to try to remedy the situations (with teachers/staff support).

Closing Prayer was led by Father Joseph.

Next meeting Thursday, January 25th at 6:30 PM.

Meeting minutes submitted by Melissa Bink