

Saint Mary Catholic School Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for January 18, 2024

Meeting was assembled at 2pm in PLC Upstairs Meeting Room

In Attendance: Father Joseph McShane, Principal Peter Rodgers, PTO President Christina Gil, SAC Chair Vanessa Kuennen, Stacey Mai, Katie Ryan, Karen Kirk, and Amy Hebson

I. **Open Meeting:** Prayer led by Father McShane

II. **Mission Statement:** Read by Vanessa

Dedicated to Catholic values, Saint Mary Catholic School is a Christ-centered educational community committed to academic excellence, spiritual growth, individual responsibility, and service to others.

III. **Agenda and Minutes**

Vanessa made motion to approve minutes from previous meeting. Motion was seconded by Christina. Minutes were signed.

IV. **School Report:** Given by Mr. Rodgers

A. Upcoming events

1. 1/29-2/2 Catholic Schools Week chaired by Beth Parker. Schedule of events will come out soon.
2. 2/5-2/16 Registration period for current SMCS families. Open registration will begin 2/17
3. 2/16-2/17 School Play
4. 3/9 Brite Stars will be held at Emerald Coast Harley Davidson. Invitations have been mailed

B. Transportation

1. \$55K has been allotted for new bus. We are looking at a 2018 used bus with 80K miles.
2. Revenue from Frost 5K and Fun Run will go into bus fund. Mrs. Beatty says that \$10K has already been collected.
3. Plan is being developed to replace the other two buses. Per Benny, they have about 5 years of use remaining before replacement is necessary.

C. Enrollment

1. We, along with 4 other schools in our diocese, have procured the services of Father Jeff Putthoff, a Jesuit priest from St. Louis, Missouri who developed a program to help schools maximize enrollment. The program will cost the five participating schools \$8K each. He will work with our 10 feeder parishes to target new families to encourage Catholic school attendance.
2. Our enrollment is good but we are losing a large 8th grade class this year. Last year we lost 70 students but gained 100. As a whole, our diocese is currently at 90-93% enrollment. These numbers are strong but the program will encourage more Catholic enrollment.

D. Enrichment: Delores could not be at meeting so she shared her updated with Mr. Rodgers

1. Plans to build business and entrepreneurship skills from K-8
2. Science Center: we have field trips to the science center planned but we are considering bringing them to the school for an event.
3. Students will visit the Veterans Memorial Park. Event will be hosted by Carolyn Ketchel

4. Weight Training Class: Jeanna Beatty is hosting a non-weighted weight lifting class during study hall periods. There are currently about 20 students participating. To be eligible, students must be in good academic and attendance standing. Class is taking place in the old gym with donated equipment.

V. Subcommittees Report

A. Bus Purchase: Led by Karen

We have narrowed search to a bus coming from Alabama (reference section I.B.1). The only drawback is that the bus is not equipped with seatbelts. Seatbelts can be added if the seats fit the necessary requirements. We will know more information once bus company has bus in house.

B. Security: Led by Katie.

1. Phase 1: Priority issues

- a) New map of campus with color coded/labeled buildings has been created and sent to police department. Kristin White is getting quote for color signage/building numbers for each building. PTO will fund signage.
- b) Key boxes have been purchased and installed.
- c) Hardened corners have been discussed. These provide a safe space for hiding in the case of an emergency.
- d) Window Coverings: Privacy or security film needs to be installed on windows. Both will provide reflection to hide what is inside. For older windows, only privacy film can be installed due to risk of glass breaking during installation of security film. The privacy film is sufficient until windows can be replaced. Newer, hurricane grade windows only need privacy film as windows are graded to withstand impact. Tempered glass windows can receive security film.
- e) Trees on campus that were blocking cameras line of sight have been trimmed as requested.
- f) The City of FWB cleared the bushes that were within a 4-5 foot relief from the school fence. They will be notified if more need to be trimmed.
- g) More cameras need to be purchased. The PTO has approved funding for this purchase.

2. Phase 2: Future upgrades, including new windows, are on the list for completion.

C. Uniforms: Led by Stacey

She is hosting first committee meeting next week and will report back findings at next SAC meeting.

VI. PTO Report: Given by PTO President, Christina Gil

- A. Catholic Schools Week: Partnering with Mrs. Parker to make Blessing Bags.** Each grade level will be assigned an item (ie, socks, snacks) to donate to bags to be given out to those in need. Mrs. Parker's \$250 budget will cover any items still needed for bags.

B. Family Fundraisers

1. Previous event at Fort Sk8 brought in \$1150 to school. Next event there will take place 2/8/2024
2. Dining Out: 1/31/2024 Rick's Crab Trap on Eglin Pkwy

- C. Fun Run: Rick's on the Island is our new partner replacing Wild Willy's. They will provide prizes for their onsite arcade, Fat Daddy's. The cost to us and the exact prizes have not been determined.
- D. 2/3/2024 8:30am. PTO is hosting Coffee Talk. This will bring the Monday Morning Moms small groups together. Seminarian Noah will lead the talk.

VII. **Pastor's Report:** No updates at this time.

VIII. **Open Discussion**

Chasity Program: The school is hosting Mary Payne, a mother of four and host of "Worthy", a chastity program based on the Theology of the Body by Pope John Paul II. She will meet over four days with the 8th graders. Parents are invited to meet with her the Sunday prior to receive an overview of the program.

Next meeting: February 2/21/2024 2pm. Upstairs Meeting Room in PLC.

Ending prayer led by Mr. Rodgers.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.

Father Doug Halsema

Principal Peter Rodgers

First Motion to Approve

Second Motion
