

St. Joseph Education Commission
August 23, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting began at 6:04 PM.

OPENING PRAYER: Fr. Andrejek.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Fr. Andrejek, Daniel Brian, Mary Jo Sarff, Al Johnson, Jay Wendelin, Colette Willoughby, Gabe Hart, Christa Larkner, Lori Behrends, Mary Hudson, Amanda Seeyle, John Shallenberger, Nicole Allen, and Brigette Sullivan.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Amy Mefford

MISSION/PURPOSE FOR COMMISSION: *"Here to prepare the students for their future, not our past."*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved by committee and accepted.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Father Andrejek welcomed our new committee members and thanked them for joining the committee. Father wanted everyone to know that he & Mrs. Sarff welcomes everyone's ideas and comments, however, not everything can be acted upon. We will continue to build on what we have accomplished over the past couple years. Father looks forward to what we can accomplish together for our school.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: We have started our first full week of school. We are off to a good start and learning has begun. Our enrollment for this school year is 103 students in K-8 and 14 in our preschool program. Our preschool numbers are lower than we want them to be, we could actually have 30 PK students. Covid had a lot to do with our decrease in numbers. Some parents are choosing not to do preschool for their children & just sending them on to Kindergarten. Good Shepherd does not have very many enrolled in their preschool. The YWCA doesn't have a preschool at all. So the question is how do we get them to choose us? Our Fall Family Festival is Saturday, October 1st, from 10a -2p, in our school parking lot. We are having many family activities such as Toss the Pumpkin, a Cake Walk, BINGO, a fall photo scene for pictures, Kona Ice, Cotton Candy, food by the Knights of Columbus and much more. We are looking for volunteers for this event. In October, we also will be having our school Trunk or Treat and our Fall Garage Sale. We are looking for donations & volunteers for the garage sale. We hired a new employee for our before/aftercare program & to help Mrs. Burks part-time in the cafeteria. Her name is Carmen Poe, she has 10 years of experience working in childcare.

FINANCE REPORT: Mr. Brian discussed the Cat Match Program. The approved Cat Match Program funds from last school year, were used to purchase 2-Smartboards for the Kindergarten classroom & the Music room. We want to continue to use these funds in the future for replacing the Smartboards, funding scholarships & financial assistance. Fr. Andrejek & the Finance Committee discussed ways that the money would benefit the school and stay true to how the Caterpillar Foundation envisions the use for the money. We will not use it to offset what the Church gives the school but, what the school needs, such as scholarships & technology. Non-Catholic families that attend our school can't apply for the Angle Fund or the Spalding Scholarship. They can, however, use funds from the CAT Match Program. The use of these funds is approved through the Finance Committee.

The Diocese wants us to be at a certain percent for Parish/School support. Right now we are not at the recommended percentage. Suggested ideas to bring us closer to the expected percent of Parish support is to make more money through fundraising, a higher student enrollment and a tuition price to be closer to where it should be to educate each student.

Education Commission Meetings will be on the 3rd Thursday of each month. There are some structural changes to the committee this year. Mr. Craig is no longer on the committee. Mr. Brian will be a liaison between the Education Committee & the Finance Committee. The DRE as well as a St. Joseph Teacher to act as a liasons and will be invited to attend the meetings on an ad hoc basis. The Finance Sub Committee within the Education Commission consists of: Fr. Andrejek, Mrs. Sarff & Mr. Brian.

It is highly recommended that all subcommittees should try to meet outside of the first half hour of the monthly meetings.

DRE REPORT: Not present. No Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. No Unfinished Business

NEW BUSINESS:

A. We will be sending out an updated Role & Purpose of the Education Commission. It can be found on the Google Drive. The Strategic Plan is the guiding light given to us from the Diocese. The Strategic Plan is in the forefront. It is a 3-5 year plan.

COMMISSION MEMBER "ROUND TABLE"

Christa Larkner: We are hoping to do 2 Garage Sale fundraisers this school year. We are hoping to raise \$12,000-\$25,000 for our school. Our 1st Garage Sale will be on Columbus Day weekend, in our school gym. We will be collecting donations for the sale on Wednesday, the 5th from 4p-7p. St. Vincent DePaul is going to let us use their truck to help with pickup of large donation items. We are unable to accept infant cribs, electronics, computer monitors, appliances, lawn equipment. If anyone knows of anyone that has a building or storage space where we can store furniture or donation items, please let her or Kari know. The Garage Sale is being advertised on Facebook, in the bulletin & on our school website. We are hoping for a great turnout. We are in need of volunteers. We are looking for more Parish involvement. All items not sold at the sales will be donated to TAPS, Goodwill & the Hope Chest.

Nicole Allen: We need to attract more families to become Catholic. While the garage sale is taking place, she suggested opening up the rest of the school to the public.

Mary Hudson: She apologized for being late. She will miss a few upcoming meetings due to a job conflict. She is excited about the new people that joined our committee & the upcoming fundraising events.

Fr. Andrejek: Thankful for the people on the Education Commission and looking forward to what we are going to accomplish this year.

Amanda Seeyle: Her dad & his siblings went here. She is happy to work on getting enrollment up. She is glad she made this school choice for her children. She is active in our community. She is on the Hope Chest Board & she is involved in the Pekin Chamber of Commerce and the Kid's Experience at the Marigold Festival.

Mary Jo Sarff: We would love to find a place to store the donations offsite until the 2nd garage sale. Thank you to everyone on the committee for being here.

Colette Willoughby: We are still painting the playground. We are working on it in phases. We are waiting for paint to come in and it halted our progress. We tried to have the project completed before school started but the supply and demand of paint and the resurfacing of the playground caused a delay. The students are enjoying what we have done so far. We are having a fall photo backdrop with an old truck at the Fall

Family Festival.

John Shallenberger: Won't be at the meeting next month, he has a conflict.

Lori Behrends: Welcome to all the new people. She loves that CCD is back in the school.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BEFORE NEXT MEETING: In preparation for next month's meeting, try to meet with your sub-committees.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting will be Thursday, September 15th at 6:00 PM.

CLOSING PRAYER: Fr. Andrejek.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brigette Sullivan

St. Joseph School following the Mission of Christ, Where we Learn our Faith and Prepare for the Future.