

St. Joseph Education Commission, Thursday, January 19, 2023

The St. Joseph Education Commission met in the Teacher's Lounge.

The meeting began at 6:00 PM.

OPENING PRAYER: Fr. Andrejek

MEMBERS PRESENT: Fr. Andrejek, Mary Jo Sarff, Daniel Brian, Al Johnson, Colette Willoughby, Jay Wendelin, Brigitte Sullivan, Christa Larkner, Amy Mefford, Gabe Hart, Amanda Seeyle, John Shallenberger, & Lori Behrends

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nicole Allen & Mary Hudson

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes Approved by the Commission

PASTOR'S REPORT: None

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Catholic Schools Week begins on January 30th. Help us kick it off with Mass on Saturday, January 28th at 5p. Please join us for the spaghetti dinner following Mass in the school cafeteria. Walk around and introduce yourselves as the Education Commission and talk up our school. We have many fun activities planned for Catholic Schools Week . We have trivia, Special Person Lunch, special treats provided by Parent's Club, some fun free dress days and other fun activities. Open Enrollment will also begin this week. There is a list of Diocesan Schools, what they charge for tuition and their enrollment for the 2022-23 school year in the Education Commission file folder. They are listed by the highest to the lowest. For example, St. Phil's enrollment is at 428 and they have the highest enrollment income. This information can be found in the subcommittee/finance/enrollment folder.

B. PASTOR REPORT: None

FINANCE REPORT: CAT Match has helped us purchase a new Smartboard for 1st grade and we just ordered a new one for 4th grade. The Nov./Dec. 2022 CAT Match donations were just at \$11,000. The Diocesan target for Parish support of the school is 50% or less. Our school support from the Parish: year of 2021 - 78% , 2022 - 73% and 2023 - 69% income comes from Parish. The Parish Vitality Support measures schools with 11 characteristics. From 2017-2021 we were at -5 and June 2022 we were at -3. The highest score in the Diocese was 11 and the lowest was -5.

DRE REPORT: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

B. NEW BUSINESS:

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR AWARD: We have 7 nominations for Alumnus of the Year from people in our Parish and school community. We had a lot of really good nominations sent in this year. The winner will be announced at the Catholic School Week Mass on Saturday, January 28th. Since we had so many good nominations this year, it was decided that we keep them on file for a year in our candidate pool, for next year. We will reconcile the names for any duplicates.

C. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

CATHOLIC IDENTITY: The PSAT was given by Pekin High School in January by our 8th grade students. Our students are doing very well and our student's place above average in placement and they maintain their placement through the years. We met at Pekin High School with the principal and a few other staff members. We went over test scores and academic placement of our students from 2018 to 2022 and it was confirmed that we do provide Academic Excellence to our students. We are going to meet with them again next February 2024. Norte Dame places our students that attend their school by MAP scores that are sent to them and teacher recommendation.

ENROLLMENT/DEVELOPMENT: Gabe has volunteered to move to the Catholic Identity Committee. Christa Larkner has taken the Enrollment and Development. Trivia night is not going to happen at Sunset Hills Eatery in February as originally talked about. We are planning to have it on March 8th instead. We are hoping that the owner, Corey, will donate the cost of the trivia guy. We will send flyers out at school for the event. The spring garage sale will not take place this spring. Christa is pregnant and we just do not have enough volunteers to help with the event. Maybe they will try it again late in the fall.

FACILITIES: Jay Wendelin walked around the school and asked the teachers about their concerns with the building. The bathroom door latches open easily so he is looking for a solution for this issue.

ROUND TABLE:

Amy Mefford: The 303 calendar isn't out yet but, on the tentative calendar they are not going to have Election Day off. She knew we had issues with the buses last year and wanted us to know.

Christa Larkner: Mary Hudson had her baby. They named him Alex. Mom and baby are home and doing well.

Fr. Andrejek: He apologized for eating too many mints at the same time. He thanked everyone for their time given to the committee.

Mary Jo Sarff: She asked that we push enrollment, scholarships, Empower and talk to Parishioners and friends to help us get more students in our school. She is going to send out the School Survey results to commission members next week for everyone to read and look over before the February meeting. We received results from 55 school families.

Lori Behrends: The Vendor Craft Fair went well and made a profit. The vendors were happy with the event. The paint with kids was very successful.

Colette Willoughby: Catholic Schools Week is coming up. We sent home a list of all the activities for that week home in the blue folder and it is posted on our webpage. Our special Catholic Schools Week Mass is on Saturday, February 28th at 5p. With a spaghetti dinner following Mass in the school cafeteria. Please walk around and let them know who you are at the spaghetti dinner, talk up our school. The students are working on special art projects to put on display in our school for the event. We will have a special bulletin for 2 weeks dedicated exclusively to Catholic Schools Week. We had the students write what Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus means to our students. All of their answers will be printed in this special bulletin. Amazon Smile is coming to an end. They are going to revamp it and make donations to non for profit organizations. We will be rolling out enrollment during Catholic Schools Week. Reach out and touch base with families and encourage enrollment.

Amanda Seeyle: She asked where our food for the cafeteria comes from. Mrs. Sarff told her it comes from the State of Illinois. Amanda said that the Hope Chest gets alot of surplus.

Daniel Brian: February 16th is the next meeting and we will discuss the survey results and The Strategic Plan. During the March Education Commission meeting we will be doing phone calls. Remember to sign up for the Paint n Sip on Friday, February 17th.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting will be Thursday, February 16th at 6:00pm in the Teacher's Lounge. Subcommittees will meet at 5:30 p.m.

CLOSING PRAYER: Fr. Andrejek

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brigette Sullivan

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