St. Mary’s School

School Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

Nov. 18, 2019

In attendance: Jenny Tessendorf, Suzy Pohorence, Lisa Milano, Kellie Parker, Deborah Wiepert, Sara Miller, Marlese Thompson, Ruth Shields, Father Michael Costik and Marisa Enzinna.

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm by Ruth Shields.

1. **Opening Prayer** led by Ruth.
2. **Reports**
3. **Pastor’s Report-** Father Michael asked if we could add the Gospel for the coming weekend to the beginning of the meeting; they are available from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.   
   He reported that some PTO members objected to Deacon Claude selling raffle tickets at the meat raffle. In response, all proceeds will benefit PTO.  
   In the future, there will be a parish-wide fundraising scheme. He said the Bishop wants the Kalama mission to stop June 1; normally special missions last three years, and we’ve collected for Kalama for 10 years. We have local causes that could benefit from the funds.  
   In the future, there will be 50/50-type raffles (possibly 40/40/20) with beneficiaries including Family Promise and St. Vincent DePaul. He’s looking for someone to coordinate this.  
   He added that fundraising for SMS has been good this year; all of the Chromebooks have been paid for, and we received all the sponsorships we requested.  
   He said there is talk of moving the meat raffle to a parish fundraiser vs. a PTO fundraiser. Ruth added that it’s a lot to ask parents to pay tuition and then support multiple fundraisers.  
   A fundraising committee will be formed as a subcommittee of the stewardship committee.  
   He reported that Parish Council has amended its constitution. There are term limits to encourage others to take leadership roles. Discussed SAC’s succession plan; Lisa will seek nominations in the spring.
4. **Principal’s Report**- See attached.  
   Discussed the new marketing video. Lisa and Father Michael said it will be an update of our last video. Mike Schwabl has a vision. Lisa would like it to emphasize the SMS stories and the “why.” Father Michael is trying to find alumni to take part. The goal is to have it ready by Catholic Schools Week. Sara asked if there is a budget for external promotion; discussed a shorter version of the video as well as promoting it on Channel 1, the FLCC channel, etc.
5. **PTO-** See attached.   
   Discussed creating a “Friends of the School,” composed of alumni, friends and parishioners, to help with fundraisers.
6. **Loose Ends**

**a.** **ROC the Day –** This year’s event will be Dec. 3. Lisa and Sara confirmed that we’re registered for the event. Discussed possible goal items. Lisa wants to replace the stage curtain. She’s seeking a quote from Sheila at Syracuse Scenery and Lighting, and suspects it will cost $8,000.

**b. Opportunities for service –** Sara said we market ourselves as a school of community and engagement, but we’re lacking opportunities to do so. The school has had Eco-Fusion and 4-H clubs, which encouraged service, but they’ve since disbanded.   
Discussed planning something during Catholic Schools Week, possibly a trike-a-thon for Golisano Children’s Hospital, thank you cards to veterans and servicemen and servicewomen, etc.  
Lisa said she’d like to form an Outreach Club and find “prayer partners” for students.  
Suzy said a holiday cheer event is set for December; it will follow the theme “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

**c.** **Assess impact of changes to SMS this year** – Tabled until next meeting.

1. **Alumni Mass –** Jenny handed out an outline of the plans. Suzy will schedule altar servers, and Jenny will contact Jeanette about Eucharistic ministers and ushers. Six students will serve as greeters. Lisa said she’s trying to find a multi-generational SMS family to serve as lectors. Lisa will order a half sheet cake from a baker, who also is an SMS alum; we also will serve coffee, tea and pink lemonade.  
   Marisa has posted the event on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook and submitted press releases to the *Daily Messenger, Finger Lakes Times, Democrat & Chronicle*, local TV stations, etc., and sent emails to all alumni in the database with email addresses – all free avenues of publicity have been covered.
   1. **Subcommittees**
      1. **New Logo (Sara) –** Nothing to report.
      2. **Marketing and Enrollment (Marisa and Marlese) –** Briefly discussed Catholic Schools Week. There will be Mass, and an open house and coffee hour with tours.
      3. **Events (Ruth and Jenny) –** Discussed a Day of Service during Catholic Schools Week and brainstormed possible activities.

7:57 p.m. Meeting Adjourned