

St. Catherine of Siena Board of Catholic Education
Minutes for Meeting of 5/3/2022

Opening Prayer: Judy Newberry

Roll Call: Present: Mike Jacks, Kip Perkins, Juliane Brown, Jenny Tallarigo, Sarah Weinel, Father Stef, Judy Newberry, Becky Schill, Sarah Dinkelacker, Colleen Copenhaver, Jenny Collopy

Absent:

Excused:

Pastor's Report (Father Stef)

Thank you for all the board has done this year. You don't always see the effects, but you're doing a great job! There needs to be a lot of involvement from the principal, parents, students, board, etc. Father appreciates the time, thought, and preparation for the board meetings.

Mike and Father will be meeting early in the summer to discuss next year as well as the camera/surveillance and potential policy on how they're used. Father will also be attending the faculty meeting on 5/31.

Thanks to Kip, Kelly, Mike, and Stephanie for a great First Communion.

Bishop Iffert is coming here for Confirmation, which is his first visit to St. Catherine.

May Crowning will be on Wednesday.

Principal's Report (Mike Jacks)

Welcome to our new members and thank you Sarah for all you've done for the board.

Mike has 3 goals for this year: enrollment, teacher effectiveness, and academic rigor.

For enrollment, we currently have 118 students enrolled for next year (19 kindergartners, 12 in 1st grade, 12 in 2nd grade, 16 in 3rd grade, 8 in 4th grade, 24 in 5th grade, 11 in 6th grade, 8 in 7th and 8 in 8th grade). Tours have slowed since Spring break. We had 111 students in the 2021-2022 school year.

For teacher effectiveness, we've talked about the importance of connecting prior knowledge to current knowledge. Using compare and contrast is something easy that can be done at any grade level and allows students to connect prior knowledge to new knowledge. The next thing we're working on is strengthening the pathways for learning progressions. What do we want students to know? How are we going to get them to know it (through recall and comprehension, evaluation, synthesis, etc.)?

For increasing academic rigor, we're looking to go deeper vs. wider. Here are some examples of learning something new with comparing and contrasting:

- 1) Would you rather – Students were supposed to write a persuasive essay on whether they would be a good athlete or good student and they had a discussion on this to compare and contrast.
- 2) In junior high literature, they were comparing the 2 different societies in 2 of Lois Lowry's books. The students' discussion and depth of knowledge was very impressive.
- 3) 4 corners – A popular technique where the teacher identified the 4 corners. Corner 1 was hurricanes, 2 was tornadoes, 3 was both hurricanes and tornadoes, and 4 was neither hurricane nor tornadoes. Then the students had to move to whichever corner they thought applied to the questions.

In most cases, the individual teachers came up with these ideas. The science text also gives the teachers ideas. This is a very teachable skill.

It's great to have movement and music solidifies the pathways to learning, e.g., throwing a ball while doing times tables.

Children are wired very differently now because of what they are exposed to, especially sensory-wise, at an early age. The traditional Sit and Get approach is valuable, but we lose a lot of students if it's our only method. 85-90% of students don't do well with Sit and Get. Father asked if students don't learn by Sit and Get will they be productive adults. Mike reiterated that Sit and Get is important, but other methods with movement should be implemented to ensure students are understanding the concepts. Doing vs. lecturing is proving to be more rewarding. Mike said it doesn't take longer to create movement activities than lecturing and repeating. If teachers are going to teach to kids, they need to use different methods.

Finance is working on the budget and Mike has submitted his draft for review. He'd like to continue with the current staff but is waiting on final budget approval.

Noteworthy:

2 of our junior high students recently participated and won on their 4-H speeches. They are the 1st ever to move on to the state level for the speeches.

Government funding was provided to all public and parochial, private schools to cover the gaps in learning from Covid-19. Julie submitted a budget on how we'd like to spend the funds. We are starting to receive the items (they send us what they have, not exact brands, etc.). This included 150 Chromebooks, new smartboards called View Boards, and some subscriptions to online programs that we use, which can be costly over the year.

Jon Smith, one of our custodians, is leaving St. Catherine. He's been here for several years and has been a great asset, well liked by parents, staff, etc. We will have a little celebration for him after the Egg Drop.

Religious Education Report (Kip Perkins)

We recently had Jesus Day for our 2nd graders, which was very enjoyable with a lot of energy and life. Thanks to Mike for leading a handful of our students in praying the rosary prior to First Communion, which was a great way to involve students.

Confirmation rehearsal is this Thursday followed by Confirmation on Monday where we will be inviting Bishop Iffert and holding a reception after Confirmation.

On May 15th, we will end our year with a potluck breakfast. Students are also celebrated for their service hours completed. A registration table will be set up at the breakfast.

Thanks to Teresa for helping Kip while he's transitioned to a new job and for keeping him afloat.

Evaluation/Planning Committee Report (Becky Schill)

Welcome Colleen Copenhaver and Jenny Collopy to the board. Thank you to Sarah Weinel for your 3 years on the board.

Thank you to the board for all your hard work this year. We've accomplished a lot with obtaining/reviewing data, setting up the Google drive to be organized and share information, continuing the quotes and kudos in the bulletin, updating our policies, and bringing back the health evaluations for next year.

Policy Review Committee Report (Juliane Brown and Sarah Dinkelacker)

Father Stef will approve the Search and Seizure and Pregnancy policies (he is waiting to connect with someone at the diocese about these last 2). Father approved the Constitution and Bi-Laws.

For the Promotion policy, 4-5 and 6-8 criteria will be consistent. Father will re-write the one paragraph and send to the board for review.

Mike will review the policies over the summer and determine if we need new policies. Each family will receive a hard copy and link to the policies.

The board will continue to review the Constitution and Bi-laws every year and update as needed.

Public Relations/Marketing Committee Report (Sarah Weinel and Jenny Tallarigo)

April minutes were approved.

We will go through the accreditation process every 5 years with The Non-Public School Commission. Our next accreditation process will be in the 2022-2023 school year. The commission will be sending out surveys to students in Grades 5-8, Teachers and Staff, and Parents. The board wanted to get a head start on this by sending surveys out this year. The student and teacher/staff surveys have been completed and parent survey is ready for distribution via Survey Monkey. Jenny is working on a Marketing Overview over the summer and incorporating this data.

Sarah is organizing the 4th of July parade. A float is being organized and flyers/popsicles will be distributed.

The Scavenger Hunt occurred last weekend and was well received. There were no new families, but it built community among current families with about 25 kids and goody bags from the Foresters. This was especially helpful for the younger families coming in next year.

Representative Updates

PTO Update: (Becky Schill)

PTO is going back to meeting on the third Thursday of the month.

Mother/Son laser tag in the gym was well attended.

Father/Daughter Dance will be this Friday.

The Mother's Day flower sale is coming up.

Next meeting is on August 2, 2022

Closing Prayer: Kip Perkins

Adjournment: