

St. Catherine of Siena Board of Catholic Education
Minutes for Meeting of 1/4/2022

Opening Prayer: Mike Jacks

Roll Call: Present: Mike Jacks, Judy Newberry, Becky Schill, Kip Perkins, Juliane Brown, Raymond Schlosser, Sarah Weinel, Jenny Tallarigo, Sarah Dinkelacker

Absent: Father Stef

Excused:

Principal's Report (Mike Jacks)

The diocese had planned on moving to optional masks. However, in light of the current Covid events in the community, they have decided to require masks for now. The diocese is sending a survey to all principals to determine if they want a diocesan guideline or individual school guidelines. Currently, the diocese has 3 elementary schools with at least one positive Covid case among the students. We are one of the schools. The diocese also has 3 positive cases in 6th-8th and 2 in high school. Our current policy is that masks are mandatory.

Mike's top three goals for the year are increasing enrollment, teacher effectiveness, and academic rigor. For increasing enrollment, Mike discussed the option of offering junior high electives with the teachers. He is thinking of offering electives to attract junior high students to stay. In his experience, it's important to differentiate the junior high from the other grades. The teachers were very receptive to teaching electives. To give the teachers an opportunity to provide input, they are currently forming grade level reps and discussing the elective options. Teachers will also receive training this week on effective ways to use Twitter to communicate classroom successes.

For the teacher effectiveness goal, teachers are meeting this week for a round 2 of Hattie's teacher clarity (discussed in the last BOCE meeting).

For academic rigor, MAP testing is kicking off tomorrow. Mike is a big proponent of students setting their own goals and working with the teachers to ensure their goals aren't too high or too low. The classes will also be setting a class goal. These goals are posted outside of each classroom. Mike wants to focus on mastering standards and not so much the fluff. Teachers are also working on the 5 ins and 5 outs. Oftentimes, there is not alignment between what the current teacher and the next grade's teacher deem essential to master before moving on to the next grade. The teachers are looking at the curriculum standards and assessing which top 5 skills every child exiting the class must know - these skills are non-negotiable. Conversely, the teachers are looking at the top 5 skills they expect of the students entering their class. This will help to prepare each student for the next school year. The teachers are ensuring these goals are aligned. Often, they are not aligned so these discussions are very important.

Noteworthy: If a faculty and staff want to be here, so do the students. If teachers and staff don't want to be here, the students won't want to be here either. Mike is looking for ways to improve the already strong culture by inserting little things into the day-to-day activities. December can be a very stressful month, especially for teachers so Mike created two behind the scenes

activities for December. The first was the Christmas book challenge. At the start of Advent, each morning after announcements, a student from each class could pick a book. The teacher would read it and the classes then ranked their favorites. The top ranked books were The Christmas Owl, The Christmas Wish, and How to Catch an Elf. These are books Mike has personally collected over the years.

The last 2 weeks of school in December included the Teacher Mission Impossible Project. Each morning, the teachers pulled a number out of a stocking #1-16 with tasks assigned to each number. When the teacher completed the task, they took a picture to show proof that the task was completely and submitted to Mike. Each task had a point value. Task examples included making copies for a peer teacher, leading the class in a Christmas carol at lunch, etc. The teachers were very competitive. Both teachers and students really got into this. The winners were announced at the staff's Christmas lunch.

In the month of December, 117 books were read to the students in the book challenge and there were 224 acts of kindness that the teachers were involved in. During December, Mike really liked the daily visits from the teachers and students for these tasks. A teacher wrote on her Christmas card to Mike, "Thank you for bringing joy to our school." Another teacher asked if we're doing the mission again.

Upcoming Dates:

Map Testing: January 5-28

Faculty meeting: January 6

Report cards distributed: January 7

Team up with God: Students making pro-life bracelets for the NCC students attending the March for Life in Washington, D.C.

No School: January 17

Forester Meeting: January 18

Donuts with Mr. Jacks: January 25

Open House: January 27

Catholic Schools Week: January 30-February 5

Religious Education Report (Kip Perkins)

2nd Grade parent meeting: January 13

1st Reconciliation: moved to Thursday, February 3

Diocesan Wide CRE meeting: next week

Starting back to CCD classes: Sunday

Evaluation/Planning Committee Report (Becky Schill)

Nothing to report.

Policy Review Committee Report (Raymond Schlosser)

The policy is on hold for Father Stef's review.

For Article 2 of the constitution, we are leaving the mission statement as is for now. We are aligned with section 1 (purpose).

For Section 2, Statement 2, we are removing “adults” from the wording. The revised wording is “To provide a spiritual environment and religious programs that foster an individual’s complete fulfillment as a member of God’s family for all children in the parish school, children in the parish religious education program, and the youth of the parish.” Father put youth ministry on hold for now hoping for a more consistent spiritual formation.

For Section 2, Statement 3, we revised the wording from “improving” to “maintaining positive”: “To provide programs and develop strategies geared to maintaining positive relations within St. Catherine’s parish community and beyond.”

Section 3, Statement 4: We revised “new” to “future” and removed “local committee”: “Serve as advisors in the planning and building of future educational facilities as requested by the Parish Pastoral Council.”

For Section 3, Statement 8, we removed wording about adults and removed the verbiage related to overseeing, evaluating, and submitting an annual budget.

Article 3 of the constitution is complete.

Raymond is working on the finishing touches and sending to Becky for distribution and final review.

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

Prior to Christmas, Juliane distributed Christmas cards with candy canes promoting the upcoming Open House to 3 local preschools, reaching 138 prospective students. She initially reached out to 6 local preschools in the Newport, Fort Thomas areas and received permission from 3 of the schools: Wise Owl, Bluebird, and Natural Start.

We added kudos to the December 5th bulletin, a quote from a 5th grader will be in the next bulletin followed by a 2nd grader for 1st Reconciliation, and then an 8th grader for Confirmation. We need kudos for this month, maybe from the Teacher Mission Impossible’s winning teacher.

Copies of the school brochure are being printed for the upcoming Open House. Sarah asked Katie Desmond to upload the brochures contents to the St. Catherine page for prospective parents to see. Katie did an amazing job!

The middle school committee met on December 16th and discussed ideas for optimizing the grades 6-8 (marketing, improve retention, budgeting, optimizing the Open House experience). We will discuss in more detail after future middle school committee meetings.

The junior high students are going to be leading the Open House as ambassadors. Mike is working with the students now.

For budget reasons, we decided to re-use last year’s yard signs. Our printer made weather resistant labels of the new dates and times for 30 signs.

Social media sites, Facebook and 4 other sites- the administrator needs to update. We'll be working on a legacy plan for social media sites in case someone leaves St. Catherine.

Representative Updates

PTO Update: (Mike Jacks)

PTO meeting on January 6, Dine to Donate at Chipotle on January 11, Night in Paris on January 29- strong push for volunteers and donations.

Next meeting is Tuesday, February 1

Closing Prayer: Kip Perkins

Adjournment: