

## STA SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Attendance: Vicente Giordanelli, Chip Garver, Eileen Walthall, Cara Swinefurth, Megan Bloede, Molly White, Andrew Purdie, Aaron Ketzenberger, Father Michael Hoyt, Clay Bowden

### Chair's Remarks

#### Election of Officers

Chair – Vicente Giordanelli

Vice Chair – Megan Bloede

Secretary – Eileen Walthall

- Motion accepted by Aaron for the Election of Officers. Motion seconded by Vicente. Motion Carried
- The School Commission members received a study/survey. Which was a Marketing survey completed by Bright Minds. This survey covers a lot of good information that we will be looking at throughout the year and reflect on at meetings.
- School Policy (Bylaw): We will be making changes to the school policy. Appendix C 3. **Stewardship Contribution** and Article V - **Meetings**. Please review both before next meeting. They have been highlighted on handouts. If you have any concerns about these changes before next meeting please reach out to Vicente.
- Vicente has a goal this year to reach out to more families within the school for volunteer opportunities, community involvement. He wants to evaluate our message and outreach approach. Make opportunities more accessible and interesting to all families. We will talk to teachers and parishioners about different ways to reach out to families.
- Calendar- it is up and visual for School Commission to view. Make sure we continue to update the calendar with any monthly committee meetings. Let's take a look at what we need to include and exclude from the calendar, to those things that we are really doing.

### Father Michael's Remarks

- His last few months are filled with listening and learning. Father Hoyt has been visiting various classrooms on Tuesdays.
- He has been enjoying reading to the kids. Listening to the teachers and students interact.
- Thoroughly enjoying the masses, both weekend and school weekly masses. His profile of the school is very positive.
- What's the best way to attract to everyone? Which will strengthen our community and our parish (church and school)?
- How do we build on what we already have at STA?

### School Report – Cara Swinefurth (Principal)

- Enrollment is 201 students – we are down three students. None of these students transferred to any of the Magnet Programs in the area. The school reached out and tried many different avenues to keep the families.
- After meeting with other schools within the archdiocese in the area, they are all seeing some of the same trends of lower enrollment in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Main reason is the start of two new Magnet programs in the neighborhood. Over all enrollments seems very good with the other grades.
- 16 new families with 18 new students. Everyone was assigned a Mentor family
- 9 new siblings
- Preschool – 9 students (81/2) and 4 siblings. They are a great addition to the school. Great feedback so far. Questions about: Are we at our max? Do we need to think about adding another pre-school/pre - K room? (Fr. Mike and Cara will talk and make decision on if we have a location within STA to add another class.)
- Aftercare – great feedback. 45 families registered. Average daily attendance – 21 students. Usually 3 employees per/day. We will be surveying kids and parents at the end of the month.
- Indiana Choice Scholarships (vouchers) – 45 students receiving them. 23 of the students are parishioners and 22 are non-parishioners
- SGO Scholarship – 15 families participating (4 new, 11 renewals) 11 of the applications are receiving \$500 of assistance. We have a balance of \$6000 and currently need \$17,000.
- The big question is how do we promote SGO? Who is our audience? (families, friends, alumni, grandparents of students) There is concern that we rely heavily on the one contributor. How do we market this better? We seem to be falling on the heels of the Capitol Campaign.

### Marketing/Advancement – Aaron Ketzenberger

- 54% of our parishioners send their kids to STA. We are interested in finding out why the other families are not sending their children to STA? We are working on a survey to send out to all the segments within our Parish. The goal of this survey is to understand why some families may not be utilizing our school.
- Renovation of the Website. We have streamlined and improved the versatility of the site. It is much more functional.
- Interested in developing a video of the school/parish to help recruit online. Possibly posted both on the STA Facebook Page STA website. Timeline/goal on this video is by the end of this school year.
- Banner and mounts are in.

### Technology – Andrew Purdie

- Summer Camp was a success! Plan on extending next year's camp to one week.
- Actual profit might have been low this year but that was possibly due to - unexpected equipment that needed to be fixed and actual attendance was down for this year's camp.
- Working on upgrading the WIFI in the campus.

Finance – Clay Bowden

- At this time, nothing to report, Clay is new member on the School Commission

Catholic Identity – Eileen Walthall

- At this time nothing to report, Eileen is a new member on the SC.
- Will be meeting this month with Cara to get an understanding on what is needed and how to best support the Commission
- Will be working on forming members for the committee

PA– Molly White (Parent Association President)

- Had a great Back to School Night. Had a lot of positive feedback from parents. The welcoming session in the gym went very well.
- The Water bottle/Survey was a great success! They received 80 survey sheets back. With new volunteers and excellent feedback. They are reviewing that data now.
- Kindergarten/Family Mentor night was well received.
- The water bottle/water fountain is underway. The process to convert all the water fountains to have a water bottle refill option is in the works. This will make our water fountains more accommodating to staff and students.

**2017-2018 School Commission Schedule**

<b>SC Meeting Dates 2017-2018</b>	<b>Committee Meetings as Needed:</b>
<b>September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017</b>	
<b>November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017</b>	<b>October</b>
<b>January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018</b>	<b>December</b>
<b>March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018</b>	<b>February</b>
<b>May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018</b>	<b>April</b>
<b>MEETINGS ARE AT 7:00 PM IN THE PARISH OFFICE</b>	

\*Plan to attend as many meetings as possible and if unable, please send any necessary update to the SC chair prior to the meeting.