

STA School Commission meeting
May 4, 2016

Members present - Chip Garver, Cara Swinefurth, Susan Williams, Matt Hayes, Andrew Purdie, Jill Greer, Kevin Strenski, Vicente Giordanelli

Members absent - Megan Bloede, Tim DeLaney, Stacy Kult, Father Schwab

Opening prayer - Chip Garver

Chair remarks - Chip Garver - Pleased with 2015-16 school year. Retention in upper classes seems to be better than before. Competition from other schools opening in the area. Academics are outstanding and apparent. Extra-curricular programs are game changers. IHM students participate in ours. Next September, school commission members need to attend a two hour training session in Indy. It will be on a Wednesday. Cara will send more information.

Question by Matt Hayes - what are the commission member terms? Susan to find out and distribute. See end of minutes for further discussion.

Parent Association report - via email by Stacy Kult. The teacher lounge project has been delayed. Plans are calling for electrical and plumbing work, which requires more contractor bidding parameters. Susan to work with buildings and grounds committee to check into it. Goal is to have the work done by start of school.

Principal's report - Cara Swinefurth - Governor Pence brought coffee and donuts to the teachers yesterday. Archbishop celebrated mass at STA today. First communicants received communion from Archbishop. Archbishop talked in his homily about the importance of parents taking their children to mass.

Enrollment report - K is full. 202 total students (budget is set at 216). 18 parishioners. 6 non- parishioners in K.

Still planning for significant raise for teachers. May have to adjust that based on number of students. Loss of students - 4 are going to CFI. 3 moved out of state. 1 needs to repeat a grade but somewhere else. 1 changed schools.

No assistant teacher next year for first grade since we will only have 14 students.

Vicente Giordanelli - what can we do for marketing? Jill Geer never received a proposal from a marketing consultant they targeted. Most of where we get our students is through word of mouth. Talk to current families in those grades that need students. Spread the word. Jill will do a draft for Cara to go out through Jupiter.

I-READ: 25 of 26 passed. State has not yet released their data. Student can retake in June. Working with that student.

PE shirts going from yellow to gray next year. New logo on blue shorts. This year is a combo year. After that, gray shirts only. Everything else will remain the same.

Awards - robotics team finished in the top half of the world (72 of 145). Neuroscience Fair - 2nd place, junior division - \$750 award to science program. 2016 Let's Move Active Schools National Recognition Award. First school in Indiana. Can't say anything about it until September. Student got 5th in recent place in right to life essay competition.

Jill Geer to look into a Run Jump Throw activity in the parking lot to announce the active schools award. USA Track and Field puts on the event. Can apply for Run Jump Throw grant of \$1000 in track and field equipment through USA track and field now that we are an active school.

Kevin Strenski - what is our teacher retention rate? Cara Swinefurth - 3 1/2 positions will be open. This information is not totally public yet. Jobs will be posted soon. Starting salary at \$31,000 - \$10,000 less than public schools.

Jill Geer - Stacy Kult and I emailed this week about the STA marketing tri-fold brochure. Will be redesigned.

Catholic Community Committee - Susan Williams. In keeping with our food/hunger theme and under Sharon Horvath's leadership, the Older Kids Earth Council tackled the problem of reducing waste at lunch by first identifying the problems, coming up with a plan, implementing and revising the plan, and measuring the results. Since the plan was implemented in March, we have seen the amount of lunch trash reduced by 65%.

Sharon put together a display with pictures of the process. That display, along with some pictures and an explanation of the Hunger Banquet last fall, was up this past weekend in the narthex as part of the Creation Care Ministry's exhibits about food. The displays are now up in the school hallway and were there for Grandparent's Day (and the Archbishop's visit in May).

As part of Earth Week activities, students brought in unwanted shoes to either be given to St. Vincent de Paul or recycled. Faith partners had a picnic with an Earth friendly lunch (minimal trash). We have tried to minimize electricity use by keeping the lights off when possible. Some students were able to do some service in the gardens (weather was a challenge). Each class also learned about Laudato si' and depicted one of the messages from the encyclical in an artwork that is also up in the school hallway.

Finance - Vicente Giordanelli- The budget is finished. May need to adjust for the 202 enrollment number. Will keep the 4 percent tuition increase. Really need 214 students every year to make budget. Utilities changed due to increases coming (water). Will plan for significant increase in salary. 2 percent was archdiocese recommendation. \$1,387 positive in the current budget. Will add activity fees for all extra-curricular activities next school year. Will be collected through tuition management system. Will be buying textbooks this year.

Technology committee - Andrew Purdie - June 4 art auction. Had two more people join the committee.

We have 5 school commission terms expiring this summer. Vicente Giordanelli (will up another three years), Chip Garver (will up another three years), Kevin Strenski (will do one more year) Matt Hayes (will step down - Susan to talk to Bernie Paradise as a possible parishioner rep replacement) and Tim (will step down).

Next meeting will be at Chip's house over the summer as a social event. Details to come.