

St. Dominic Education Commission
April 12, 2021

Attendance: Jessica Williams, Jessica Remmel, Mike Liderbach, Mike Stenger, Peter Gibbs, Joe Kruessel, Mark Goins, Amy Luebbering, Patrick Lahni, Bill Cavanaugh, Karen Brandstetter

Absent:

1) Call to Order

2) Opening Prayer

3) Approval of March minutes **approved by unanimous consent**

4) Old Business

- Elections
 - 5 candidates: Mike Stenger, Jen Luebbering, Mary Warner, Nikki Servizzi, Christelle Middendorf
 - solicited candidates for bios, due April 21, will push up to April 16 to have available for online voting
 - In-person voting weekend of May 1
 - online voting as well, Parent Press April 23, April 30, bulletin for those weekends as well

5) New Business

- COVID retrospective - what went well this year? What are visions for next year? What remains? What ends?
 - Suggest continuing to let kids wear gym clothes to school
 - Considering whether to return to the old drop-off process in the morning or keep 2-line dropoff
 - Would like teachers to have a written plan for student quarantine
 - Continued focus and progress on using technology in the classroom
- Graduation Plans *see principal's report*
- Government PPE loans/CARES Act funding, etc. **grants have all been applied for, no results yet. Focus on air filtration for school building. Principal will pull together a list for distribution to staff**

6) Committee Reports

- **Faith Formation** (Brandstetter)
 - 1st Reconciliation was last week, went very well, kids were better prepared than usual. PSR families are making appointments for 1st Reconciliation
 - April 24 is Confirmation, working on interviews with student candidates (student 1:1 with pastoral staff or principal)
 - 1st Communion is May 1, May 7 is May Crowning
 - Discussing options for Vacation Bible School this summer
 - Request to bring back Children's Liturgy of the Word
- **PTO** (Hasselbeck or Korb) **No updates**
- **School Strategic Plan**
 - Academic Excellence (Peter)

- Academic Issues Committee updates (see notes from Jan McReynolds at bottom)
 - Technology questions for Mr. Shortt emailed after last meeting, waiting to receive responses
 - Grants see notes from Amy Walter below
 - STEM Club/Makerspace updates new STEM Club-from-home sent last week
- Teacher Engagement & Recognition (Jessica & Jessica)
 - Third Thursday, March lunch was from OPie-O
 - April will be breakfast (bagels, fruit, etc.)
 - Will discuss teacher surveys at staff meeting tomorrow
 - Hiring: junior high teachers will assist with interviews for jr high position. Outgoing preschool director will be involved with interviews for preschool position. School psychologist position is staffed by county.
- Catholic Culture, Community & Family
 - Covered with Faith Formation report
 - PBIS discussion (in context of Dr. Romanello retiring) expectation is for new psychologist to promote PBIS to whatever extent possible, may rely on other staff for faith-related aspects
- Marketing & Communication (Mark & Joe)
 - School Website meeting this Friday to develop vision for new school website, new system for student information (replace ProgressBook)
 - Google ad grant Grant was approved, Mark & Joe will work on developing ad content, will consult with business manager before publishing
 - Social Media Policy Update (Peter)
- Plan for “next 3 years” consensus to reinvest in another 3-year plan
- **Principal’s Report** (Bill) see report below
 - Registration
 - Chromebook updates
 - School Calendar
 - Tuition
 - Capital Improvement
 - Parish Meeting minutes/feedback (marketing, website, etc)
 - Departing staff
 - Other items of interest?
- **Tuition Credit** (Lahni)
 - Frisch’s 4/13
 - Chipotle 5/11

7) Next Meeting: Monday, May 10 at 7 pm, school library.

8) Closing Prayer

9) Adjournment

March 16, 2021 Update from Jan McReynolds (Academic Issues Committee Chair):

Our Academic Issues Committee met a few weeks ago, so I'll provide the updates from our meeting.

1. We discussed plans for students who are failing and/or struggling. Individual plans have been implemented through auxiliary services and teacher assistance. Students are getting one on one instruction during RTI bell and scheduled times with the appropriate services. There has been progress, but additional steps are needed. We reinstated the Homework Club during recess to help students complete their assignments (grades 6-8).
2. We are in the process of addressing students who have excessive absences. Obviously, there is a correlation between this and learning gaps in the classroom. Administration is currently gathering information from teachers and the intent is to meet with families to improve the situation. We are also discussing the protocol for new families and possibly modifying expectations.
3. We are assessing components of the Renaissance Program to determine what is most beneficial for our students. I am in the process of gathering information for our annual accreditation report that is due in May. I will share this with the Education Commission as soon as it is completed. This includes the results for STAR testing. I will forward this as well.
4. We are continuing Year 3 of our School Improvement Plan, with an emphasis on problem solving. Some of our assessment tools are reflective writing (rubrics score the 6 critical thinking skills from Bloom's), Pre/Post tests (critical thinking skills) in all subject areas, lesson plans assessing critical thinking skills, STAR tests (math & reading), and Project-based learning activities.
5. Examples of Project-based learning activities-
 - **(K-2)**- Unit on butterflies. They will observe, explore, and journal the transformation of a live caterpillar into a butterfly using scientific explanations and vocabulary. Each grade level will then complete an appropriate project (construct life cycle of a butterfly).
 - **3rd Grade**- Read Thomas Edison's "The Wizard", think about what invention would be helpful in our world. Brainstorm ideas, illustrate and write about your invention. Make a model/picture of invention, name it, and provide details. Write a paragraph explaining the invention and include reasons why you chose to create it. Present invention to class.
 - **6th Grade**- Data analysis for Math Standards. Students will create surveys for students and teachers. They will predict the results of their surveys before given. Next students will collect and analyze the data, including comparing predictions to the actual results. They will display results with several different methods including graphs, line plots, and box/whiskers plot. Finally, they will summarize findings and present their conclusions through visual aids such as posters or PowerPoint presentations.

All grade levels are participating in Project-based learning activities, just provided a few examples.

Principal's Report

1. Enrollment for next school year 2021-22 school year:
 - Preschool: 39
 - Kindergarten: 48
 - 1st: 40
 - 2nd: 41
 - 3rd: 28
 - 4th: 35
 - 5th: 44
 - 6th: 37
 - 7th: 41
 - 8th: 50
 - Total-K-8: 364
 - Total Preschool: 39
 - Total with Preschool: 403

 - Total- K-8-2020-2021: 364
 - Total Preschool- 2020-2021: 49
 - Total with Preschool: 413

2. School Calendar: We are working on this. There will be fewer 4-day weekends. Once it is finished, I will publish it. I am awaiting the response from Fr. Jim/Deacon Mark.

3. Tuition has been set by the Parish Administration with consultation of the Finance Council for the 2021-22 school year at \$5,000.00. With successful application of the Fr. James Walsh Scholarship, net tuition would be \$3,400.00. **This is a \$100 increase**

4. Capital Improvement List: The list was given to the Parish Administration Staff at the end of February. I know that the bathrooms near the gym are being looked at as a high priority to get completed over the summer. Once the Parish Administration has a chance to look at the list and meet with me, we will then prioritize the list together.

5. This coming Friday and next Friday Josh, Stephanie, Charlie, and I are meeting to discuss the website. Once we do this, we will include Mark Goins and Joe Kruessel in the future meetings.

6. The following staff are leaving:
 - a. Mr. Steve Burns is retiring for the 2nd time. Steve worked for Northwest School District for 30 years and has been our Jr. High Teacher for the last 5 years.
 - b. Jeannine Roth has resigned her position due to health issues.
 - c. Dr. Mary Ann Romanello will be retiring at the end of this school year. Dr. Romanello has been with us for 35 years.

We will be discussing the best way to recognize and celebrate those staff members. I have begun interviewing for Steve's position and will be setting up interviews for Jeannine's position in the near future. Both positions have been posted on the Archdiocese website; **several applications have already been received for both positions**. Since Dr. Romanello is a Hamilton County employee, the county will fill that position.

7. Graduation/Dance: We have and will continue to have discussions with the school and parish staff with regard to finalizing the plans for graduation and the possibility of having a dance for the 8th graders.

March 14, 2021 Update from Amy Walter (Volunteer Grant Coordinator):

The COSI money [from 2019/2020 school year grant] has not been used. We were told that we may hold onto that money until we are able to bring them to our school. If COSI is not available, we are able to use the money to bring in a similar program from the Cincinnati Museum Center. Because we still are sitting on the \$1000 from Learning Links for COSI on Wheels, we are only able to apply for 1 Learning Links grant. You can get 2 per year, but until spent, the COSI money counts as grant number 2. Therefore, for this year (2020-2021) and last year (2019-2020 school year), only one application may be submitted. As the Greater Cincinnati Foundation sees it, we have \$2000 to spend this year, ideally COSI and the Makerspace. Since COSI will not happen that money will carry over to next year with only \$1000 available to us for 1 grant max.

A grant for the Zoo was proposed but never written. COSI on Wheels was chosen over the Zoo to You program. The Zoo to You would only have been able to cover the lower grades (K-3, maybe 4th grade). There was an additional cost to have additional programs for the upper grades and money was not available for that at the time. If possible, I would like to have your receipts by April 20 [for 2020/2021 Makerspace Grant]. Grant follow-ups are due April 30 at 5pm.