

**St. Patrick School Board Meeting  
October 10, 2023**

**“We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve!”**

**Present:** Cheryl Baker, Jeff Fedewa, Dana Hengesbach, Ashley Kliewer, Brenda Lenneman, Erin Pung-Caszatt, Connie Vallier, Nancy Wohlscheid, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Hodge

**I. Opening Prayer (Jeff)**

**II. Diocesan Superintendent of Catholic Schools**

Dave Faber, Superintendent of Grand Rapids Catholic Schools, addressed the school board to discuss the school and Bridging Faith and Future vision metrics, strategies and tactics. The Strategic Intent Map has vastly changed. The diocese is in year one of a five-year strategic plan. Mr. Faber began by saying the school and parish are both healthy. Regarding Bridging Faith and Future, Mr. Faber talked about various items. Bylaws should be reviewed, especially during the training of new school board members. Evidence folders should exist for the purpose of accreditation. When Bishop Walkowiak visits, use social media pictures for marketing. He noted the importance of attending school board retreats and the diocesan school board summit. Mr. Faber suggested building a recruiting class for future school board openings. The strategic plan should be done one year after the accreditation process.

**III. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

Cheryl moved to approve August 2023 school board notes; Dana seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**IV. New Business**

None

**V. Principals' Report**

Mr. Hodge reported the high school has 88 students with one sophomore exchange student from Spain. As a part of professional development, teachers discuss Mystery of the Eucharist at staff meetings each week. Mr. Hodge and Mrs. Smith will be attending the MANS (Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools) conference tomorrow where Mr. Hodge will receive the Sr. Dorita Wotiska Award. The semester will end this year at winter break. The high school will have an opportunity to participate in the Michigan March for Life on November 8. The Veterans Day ceremony will take place on November 10. Grand Rapids Diocese Assistant Superintendent, Sarah Grey, will visit the school on November 30. Ionia County Sheriff's Office will hold critical incident training at the school over Christmas break. Fall athletics are halfway completed. The football team is 6-1, cross country now has a full boys' team (five runners). The Athletic Association now meets on the second Monday of the month at 7 pm. Regarding Advancement and Development, Mr. Hodge stated the raffle has made

\$38,000 more than last year. Mr. Hodge is developing an alumni committee and would like to start an Athletic Hall of Fame. It is the fiftieth anniversary of the first girls' basketball team and softball team which will be recognized in some way. The first graduating class was the Class of 1953 and Mr. Hodge acknowledged they should be recognized as well. Mr. Hodge will be mailing Christmas cards. Mr. Hodge still hopes to work with Mr. Lee Madarang regarding planned giving. Father Mike agrees we need someone to take Advancement and Development to the next level.

Mrs. Smith reported the infant/toddler daycare is full and has a waiting list. Preschool enrollment is up ten students. The Program Effectiveness Survey is turning in a positive direction. The school has more volunteers for lunch coverage. MAPs (Measures of Academic Progress) testing is taking place for Fall semester; meetings will take place to determine how to support all students. Regarding Title I, Portland Public Schools has allocated 110 hours for the school year which amounts to four hours per week for intervention. In years past we were over allocated, so the hours were cut in half. Big rocks and little rocks participated in the rosary and food bank box decorating. Parent/teacher conferences were scheduled electronically this year. Socktober is happening again this year. There will be Camp Henry for sixth and seventh graders this year; in the future sixth and ninth graders will participate. Mrs. Smith and Mr. Hodge attended a PTO meeting which was fruitful in guiding them in how Father Mike wants fundraising handled. The PTO will be a line item in the budget as well as the senior trip. The dress code will list, "loose fitting," next to skinny pants. A toy policy needs to be added.

## **V. Subcommittees**

### **A) Policy and Strategic Planning (Brenda)**

Brenda is working on updates to the Emergency Operations Plan and has added information for suicide at the recommendation of the diocese. Brenda asked committee members to read the Strategic Plan carefully as it relates to their subcommittees.

### **B) Mission Effectiveness**

Connie is working on filling vacant co-chair positions.

### **C) Marketing and Communication (Ashley and Dana)**

Marketing photos were taken at the end of September. New banners for the Grand River Avenue windows have been ordered. Marley Bengel is assisting as needed. Regarding portal money, \$1,000 was left on the table.

### **D) Advancement and Development (Mr. Hodge, Erin and Krysten)**

See Principals' Report above.

### **E) Finance Committee (Jeff and Cheryl)**

September finances came in yesterday and will be reviewed. Budget has been updated with actuals. Parish subsidy currently is 36%. Elementary and preschool enrollment is higher than

budgeted. Employee discount was adjusted from 10% to 30% for full-time school staff. Daycare is a weekly rate.

F) Executive Committee (Connie, Jeff and Nancy)

Connie will advertise the open school board positions in the bulletin. The School Board Summit is November 8. Program Effectiveness Surveys can be reviewed, just let Connie know if you are interested.

**VII. Review of Tasks and Assignments (Nancy)**

- 1) Connie will work on filling the school board openings.
- 2) School board members will review the Strategic Plan as it relates to their committees.

Closing Prayer (Ashley)  
Adjournment at 8:15 pm

Next school board meeting: Tuesday, December 12, 2023.  
Notes provided by Nancy Wohlscheid

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