

**Regis Catholic Schools
Commission Meeting Notes
Regis High School Room 107
Thursday, October 18, 2012**

Present: Becky Alexander; Denise Boos; Renee Cassidy; Barb Haag; Val Knobloch; Very Rev. Brian Konopa; Chuck Larson; Howard Ludwigson; Gina Ostrowski; Rev. Derek Sakowski; Mark Seyer; Anna Sizer; Patty Usher

Absent: Kelly Bowe; Gayle Flaig; Todd Fischer; Rev. Paul Hoffman; Rev. Eugene Klink; Rev. John Schultz; Rev. George Szews; Rev. Georgekuty Thayikuzhithottu

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chuck Larson, Chair. Fr. Konopa led the opening prayer. Notes from the meeting of September 20, 2012, were accepted as distributed.

Mr. Ludwigson provided an administrative report: (1) He is considering the formation of a Middle School PTO to strengthen communications at that level; (2) The language arts curriculum will be reviewed this year with consultative assistance from Linda Nortier and Bette Lang who also assisted with the Teaching and Learning process last year; (3) He will be attending a Diocesan Presidents' meeting in Marshfield next week where a major topic of discussion will be value-added employee compensation; (4) Bids are being sought for tuck-pointing and flashing repair of RHS/RMS with estimated costs totaling approximately \$100,000.

Denise Boos provided a financial report: (1) Uncollected tuition prior to 2008 amounting to \$171,000 requires extra work to detail; the Diocese recommends a process of writing off some tuition as uncollectible; (2) Estate gifts after RHS/RMS boiler replacement, network upgrade, Distance Learning lab, and \$100,000 debt pay-off to the Diocese, amounts to \$212,000, some of which will be used for the RHS tuck-pointing and flashing repairs; (3) The debt to the Diocese is currently \$462,000, with a fixed interest rate of 6%; (4) A 2% tuition increase is being considered for 2013-14. There was some discussion of the difference between tuition paid by families who are participating members of RCS' supporting parishes vs. those who are non-participating or non-parish members. Currently, non-parish member families pay an additional \$1,000 for tuition. It has been proposed that this amount should be increased.

Becky Alexander accepted a position on the RCS Finance Committee.

Fr. Konopa reported on the status of the mission and vision statements and there was considerable discussion. The pastors welcome additional thoughts. It would be helpful to communicate these to Fr. Konopa with a goal of presenting final drafts at the November meeting so the mission/vision can be included as part of the AdvancEd accreditation process.

Bishop Callahan has submitted his decision about RCS restructuring to the pastors. The existing structure and member schools will remain the same, meaning that the three elementary schools (Immaculate Conception; St. Mary's; St. James) will remain K-5, Regis Middle School will remain 6-8, Regis High School will remain 9-12, and the administrative offices will remain in the Alliance Bank building.

Chuck Larson and Howard Ludwigson have been in contact with members of the Teaching and Learning Steering Committee and informed them that the functions of this committee will be integrated into Commission business. However, steering committee members will be encouraged to stay involved and specific tasks will be identified as we move forward.

Howard Ludwigson reported on the use of iPads in RCS: (1) iPads have been provided to all staff and professional development on their use is underway; (2) It is hoped that iPads can be acquired for middle school students for the 2013-14 school year; these grades have been selected because of the availability of applications at that level; (3) Although there will be an initial outlay of money, it is likely that cost savings will accrue as textbooks increasingly move to the electronic platform; (5) The staff is working with CESA 10 and other schools to learn more about the best uses of iPads for student learning. Commission members expressed their support for the educational use of iPads and recommended pursuing this action.

Chuck Larson proposed that the Commission initiate a strategic planning process with an outside facilitator to clarify our roles and responsibilities and to provide leadership for the future of RCS. This would probably involve some Saturday sessions in the beginning of 2013. Members expressed support so planning will continue.

Patty Usher provided a draft of the new Guidelines/By-Laws. The ad hoc committee has met several times and their draft was presented to the executive committee. Members were urged to review the document, provide suggested changes to Patty, and be prepared to finalize this task at our November meeting.

It was agreed that future meetings will be held on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. A schedule is attached to these minutes.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 15, 2012, 5:00 pm, in the **Mega Foods-East Conference Room**.

Fr. Sakowski offered the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Cassidy