

**Regis Catholic Schools
Education Commission Meeting
Thursday, March 6, 2014
Regis High School, Room 107, 5:00pm**

Present: Rev. Alan Guanella, Renee Cassidy, Patty Usher, Mark Seyer, Kelly Bowe, Howard Ludwigson, Chuck Larson, Mark Gobler, Paul Pedersen, Rev. John Schultz, Anna Sizer, Barb Haag, Jenny Dykes, Becky Alexander, Val Knobloch, Rev. Derek Sakowski, Gayle Flaig, Very Rev. Brian Konopa

Absent: Denise Boos, Rev. Don Meuret, Rev. David Olson, Rev. George Thayikuzhithottu

Minutes: Meta Miske

I. Opening

Call to Order: Chuck Larson

Opening Prayer: Rev. John Schultz

January Minutes: Approved, no corrections or additions

II. Reports

a. RCS Foundation – Mark Seyer

- i. Non Sibi Dinner – menu complete, invitations mailed; responses currently low, but expected to increase closer to the event
- ii. Advancement report – scholarship packet completed with the help of Jill Urdahl, currently contacting donors to ensure they will still provide scholarships; Annual Appeal raised \$182,931; COEP raised \$68,000 with 94 families participating; currently working on updating the St. Pat's/Regis alumni directory

b. Teaching and Learning – Val Knobloch

- i. Meeting with other area principals

c. School Life – Barb Haag

- i. Sacred Heart/St. Pat's brought pizza to schools and Fr. George had lunch with the catholic school parishioners – mostly elementary and middle school students, high school had a low turnout
- ii. Sacred Heart/St. Pat's ended Catholic Schools Week with a bowling outing with Fr. George – attendance at the parish night following bowling was higher than normal

d. Catholic Identity – Becky Alexander

- i. Committee hasn't met yet but is creating an agenda for their first meeting – additions to the agenda are welcome

e. Other

- i. Howard mentioned the RMS/RHS handbooks need updating and he would like the involvement of the Commission or a standing committee
 - 1. Kelly and Renee updated the Elementary handbook last summer

f. Accreditation – Renee Cassidy

- i. The final report was handed in on February 24 for review
- ii. Visiting team will be here on Monday, April 7 until Wednesday, April 9
 - 1. Team will meet with students, staff, commission members, etc.

- iii. Packets handed out regarding each schools' report and the executive summary
 - 1. The executive summary includes the mission statement, vision statement and core values as well as notable achievements and areas needing improvement within the 5 standards
 - 2. Notable achievements: Odesseyware, Skyward, having a balanced budget, use of technology, etc.
 - 3. Areas needing improvement: IT person needed full-time, increase salary/benefits, hire curriculum director, crisis plan, administrative stability in the MS/HS; these items coincide with the strategic plan
 - iv. Measurable goals set must be met within 2 years
 - 1. Non-Academic Goal: eliminate debt
 - 2. Academic Goal: finish science curriculum; we are building off the recent science curriculum updates from the Diocese
 - v. Each school has an accreditation report
 - 1. Chuck Larson will e-mail the reports to commission members
 - vi. Schedule for Accreditation:
 - 1. Monday, April 7- Team meets at CO and IC gathering space during the day, will interview some Commission members
 - 2. Tuesday, April 8 – Team is at Schools, works late into the evening
 - 3. Wednesday, April 9 – Team reports back and leaves by noon; probably giving assignments for things to complete
 - vii. Recognition is given to Renee for the countless hours she has spent working on the accreditation process and to the others who have taken leadership roles in preparing us for accreditation; Mark Gobler says it is important for us to be accredited in order to stay in the Choice program
 - viii. Areas for improvement were chosen based on the lowest scores from the system-wide survey; HS families had the highest responses with suggestions on how to improve
- III. Commission members expressed sincere appreciation to Renee, Kelly, and other staff members for many hours of effort in preparing this report.
- IV.
 - a. **Administrative Report – Mark Gobler**
 - i. With the weather related cancellations, in order to meet the required minutes, we will likely extend the school year to June 12, possibly only June 11 for the elementary schools
 - 1. 8th graders will likely continue with school after their promotion
 - 2. Seniors will graduate and end their year as scheduled
 - 3. We need 1,137 hours in the school year; 1,154 were scheduled before cancellations, so there was not a lot of leeway
 - 4. We get full-day credit for partial days as long as we serve lunch
 - 5. There may still be a reprieve from Governor Walker
 - ii. Attended president's meeting last week
 - 1. The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) program is being looked at; Pacelli is doing this for their first year, Xavier of Appleton does this over the summer and during the evenings in the fall

- a. This is a cost friendly program overall, although the teacher training is expensive
 - b. Our science consultant helped found the STEM program
 - c. Classes are on a 3 year rotation; students in grades 10, 11 and 12 eventually can take all classes by graduation
 - d. Possibility of combining with McDonell and home-school families for this program
- b. **MS/HS Report – Howard Ludwigson**
 - i. Placemats from CSW have been appreciated; paper can be easily reordered to make them again in the future
 - ii. Handout given of MS/HS updates
- c. **Communications Report – Anna Sizer**
 - i. Spring newsletter is in the works and going to the printer over Spring Break; will be available approximately 2 weeks later
- d. **Early Childhood Update – Gayle Flaig**
 - i. The child development centers are going through a formal review called “Young Star” which includes a site visit (Commission participation not necessary), training of staff, etc.
 - ii. Parent surveys have been completed, went well
 - iii. Updated employee and parent handbooks last summer
 - iv. Preparing for summer school
 - v. Registration for 4K is going on; final numbers will be available in July
 - vi. Staff is learning sign-language tonight to increase communication with students

V. Discussion Items

- a. **ITBS Standardized Test Scores – Renee Cassidy**
 - i. Scores must be in Commission minutes and released to parents in upcoming newsletters *Please see last two pages for scores*
 - ii. There is controversy over whether or not to test 2nd graders but Renee and Kelly feels it better prepares them to test in 4th grade
 - iii. Teachers have the tests early so they know what to prepare for, although they do not “teach the test”
 - iv. Many 8th grade scores are at a grade level of 13 – are they being challenged if that is the case?
 - 1. Odysseyware and taking HS level courses challenges the students
 - v. Discussion on whether religion is left out because it is not part of the ITBS testing
 - 1. Grades 4, 8 and 11 take Diocesan test
 - 2. Scores aren’t received until the end of the school year, but Anna will take measures to release the scores at the end of the year or at the beginning of the next school year
 - 3. 4th grade test has some suggested changes in language since it contains terms that 4th grade students haven’t learned or don’t use yet
 - 4. Paul Klinkhammer met with religion teachers last spring to identify areas of weakness based on test results
- b. **Strategic Plan – Fr. Konopa**
 - i. Mark gave a good presentation at the Strategic Plan retreat

- ii. On March 11 the main concepts of the Strategic Plan will be presented to the pastors
 1. Discussion occurred over wording and items, whether or not to make minor changes to the Strategic Plan before presenting to the pastors, keeping in mind that the plan should contain items that we can measure progress on during the 2014-15 school year. The plan should not be a “brag board” of things already accomplished but new initiatives that make progress toward RCS goals within the next school year and beyond.
 - a. Core Values: under Accepting Responsibility change “Improve: Staff Development and Retention” to “Improve: Staff Development”; this deletes “Staff Retention” because Inspiring Leadership already includes it - “Improve: Administrative and Staff Stability”
 - b. Key Initiatives includes the Teaching and Learning Plan. Since T&L is more of a working/living document, it was agreed to change the language to “Teaching and Learning Initiatives”
 - c. Under “Involve All Constituencies” minor edits to the “Broader Community” section were made to reflect the need to develop new ideas
 - d. Agreed to change “environmentally-friendly” under “Manage the Finances” to “environmentally-sustainable”
 - e. More tweaks can be made before the presentation to the pastors on March 11
 - c. **Standing Committee Responsibilities – Fr. Konopa**
 - i. Deferred until next meeting for the sake of time
 - d. **Strategic Planning Retreat – Chuck Larson**
 - i. Discussion deferred for sake of time
 - e. **Other – Chuck Larson**
 - i. Terms ending soon
 1. Chuck Larson – will be replaced
 2. Patty Usher – ending first term, will talk to Fr. Meuret regarding a possible second term
 3. Becky Alexander – ending first term (Replaced Miles Casey at beginning of 2012-13), will talk with Fr. Sakowski regarding a possible second term

VI. Closing

Closing Prayer: Fr. Guanella

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm

Regis Middle School ITBS Standardized Tests

Immaculate Conception, St. Marys, St. James

Eau Claire, WI

Diocese of La Crosse

November 2013

Iowa Tests of Basic Skills: Based on National Average Test Scores

Grade Equivalent Scores: the scores are the students' average performances at each grade level; example, 5.9 indicates the students are at Grade 5, 9 month level for comprehending that particular subject. **We took the test in the 6.3 and 8.3 months of school.**

Grade 6: Nationally ranked 89 percentile composite

Reading Vocabulary	Reading Comprehension	Average Total Reading Composite	Spelling	Capitalization	Usage & Expression	Total Lang. Arts	Math Concepts	Math Problems & Data	Math Computation	Average Total Math Composite	Social Studies Composite	Science Composite	Total Composite of all Scores
7.4	7.7	7.6	7.7	9.7	9.3	8.7	7.3	7.2	5.9	6.8	8.0	8.8	7.9
National	Percentile	87				95				67	87	96	89

Grade 8: Nationally ranked 95 percentile composite

Reading Vocabulary	Reading Comprehension	Average Total Reading Composite	Spelling	Capitalization	Punctuation	Usage & Expression	Average Total Language Composite	Math Concepts	Math Problems & Data	Math Computation	Average Total Math Composite	Social Studies Composite	Science Composite	Maps & Diagrams	Ref Materials	Total Composite of all Scores
10.2	11.5	11.1	11.1	12.5	13+	13+	13+	11.5	11.8	11.6	11.7	10.2	12.4	13+	12.8	11.9
National		91					96				96	78	94			95

Regis Catholic Elementary Schools

ITBS Standardized Tests

Immaculate Conception, St. Marys, St. James
Eau Claire, WI
Diocese of La Crosse
November 2013

Iowa Tests of Basic Skills: Based on National Average Test Scores

Grade Equivalent Scores: the scores are the students' average performances at each grade level; example; 2.4 indicates the students are at Grade 2, 4 months level for comprehending that particular subject. **We took the test in the 2.3 and 4.3 months of school.**

Grade 2: Nationally ranked 82 percentile composite

Reading Vocabulary	Reading Comprehension	Average Total Reading Composite	Word Analysis	Listening	Spelling	Math Concepts	Math Problems & Data	Math Computation	Average Total Math Composite	Social Studies Composite	Science Composite	Total Composite of all Scores
2.7	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.8	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.6
National	Percentile	87							75	73	80	82

Grade 4: Nationally ranked 98 percentile composite

Reading Vocabulary	Reading Comprehension	Average Total Reading Composite	Spelling	Capitalization	Punctuation	Usage & Expression	Average Total Language Composite	Math Concepts	Math Problems & Data	Math Computation	Average Total Math Composite	Social Studies Composite	Science Composite	Maps & Diagrams	Ref Materials	Total Composite of all Scores
5.4	5.9	5.6	5.5	5.9	5.8	6.5	5.9	5.2	5.6	4.6	5.1	6.3	6.5	6.6	5.8	5.9
National		94					97				87	99	99			98

RMS Grade 6: National percentile ranked 89 composite

RMS Grade 8: National percentile ranked 95 composite