

**Regis Catholic Schools
Education Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 16, 2015
Regis Room 107, 5:00pm**

Present:

Becky Alexander	Val Knobloch	Paul Pedersen
Gayle Flaig	Rev. Tom Krieg	Tanya Schmitz
Mark Gobler	Meghan Kulig	Reid Sollberger
Rev. Alan Guanella	Kelly K. Mechelke	Rev. George Thayikuzhithottu
Barb Haag	Very Rev. Don Meuret	Patty Usher

Absent:

Denise Boos	Pat Lange	Rev. Felix Tigoy
Renee Cassidy	Rev. David Olson	Bill Uelmen
Teresa Johnson	Rev. Derek Sakowski	

Minutes: Tanya Schmitz

I. Opening

Call to Order: Patty Usher

Opening Prayer: Very Rev. Don Meuret

February Minutes: Accepted

II. Foreign Language Report

a. Elementary Report: Presented by Lynne Larabee

- i. Handout: Grade Level Objectives and Information
- ii. Passed around: Sample folders for Commission review
 1. Optimum age of learning foreign language is 10 and under
 2. Philosophy of spiraling: introduction and adding layers of information
 3. Integrates music, prayers, and activities
 4. Two methods: total immersion and blended
 5. Class time: Grades K-3 is twice/wk, 15 minutes each; Grades 4 & 5 is once/wk, 30 minutes

iii. Mark Gobler commented that he enjoys the Foreign Languages classes when he stops by the schools

iv. Val Knobloch commented to the importance of the electives as much as core classes

b. RMS/RHS Report: Presented by Alexandra Esser

- i. Five levels of German and Spanish
- ii. Spain trip this year, Germany trip next year
- iii. Foreign Language Department received Ann Marie Grant for 6 iPads
- iv. Foreign Language Department received ISE Travel Agency Grant
- v. German Club has been started
- vi. Students are attending Festival of Nations in the Cities on May 1st
- vii. Foreign Language Department numbers are anticipated to grow

III. Standing Committees:

a. Governance: None

b. School Life: None

c. Teaching and Learning: Presented by Val Knobloch

- i. Professional Development at St. Mary's on April 17th
- ii. Social Studies Curriculum on April 17th
- iii. Math and Science Curriculum in Plover on April 20th

- d. Catholic Identity: Presented by Becky Alexander
 - i. Recent Catholic Identity Committee meetings netted the following:
 - 1. Choice Program and Religion Opt-Out requiring 8 semesters of alternative curriculum at a comparable level
 - 2. Virtual School concern of added stress on staff and distraction from mission
 - 3. Statue app 5' tall found recently is needing refurbishing
 - 4. Priest presider chair needs painting
 - 5. Modesty of girls volleyball uniform shorts
 - 6. Opened up discussion regarding Religion Classes
 - ii. Semester Religion Classes
 - 1. A reshuffling of courses in this department
 - 2. More flexibility in scheduling
 - 3. Catholic Social Teaching and Vocations courses added
 - 4. "Religion Dept" changed to "Theology Dept"
 - iii. Patty Usher inquired how often Religion is opted out of
 - iv. Mark Gobler responded that opt out option is less in Catholic schools, however it ranges from 50-100%
 - v. Patty Usher asked if alternative curriculum is established for those who opt out
 - vi. Mark Gobler responded no and most schools do not have it in place
 - vii. Father Guanella recommended an overview be used to show potential parents who are interested in opt out to review as a start versus establishing a full-structured curriculum for this scenario but with very little spent on implementation if never used
 - viii. Val Knobloch suggested distance learning as an option
 - ix. Mark Gobler believes a Diocesan-wide opt out curriculum would allow for shared resources on this venture as well as be beneficial for exchange students

IV. Choice Program Update: Presented by Mark Gobler

- a. Still being worked through legislature
- b. School accountability portion seems to be dissipating
- c. Requires RCS to have a double-audit: once by Choice and once by Diocese
- d. Joint Session w/ ECASD and the Commission a future possibility
- e. Val Knobloch attested to the relationship developed by these joint sessions between McDonell and CF
- f. Patty Usher asked about the topics of these joint sessions in CF to which Val Knobloch responded with Choice Program, Busing, Early vs Late Releases, etc.
- g. Mark Gobler suggested a possible invitation of Altoona also due to good Superintendent relationship and our presence in Altoona district
- h. 138 applied to the Choice Program from Regis, 35 of which are new
- i. Choice Program runs parallel with the St. Benedict Tuition Scholarships

V. Development Centers: Presented by Gayle Flaig

- a. National Week of the Young Child celebrated with Math and Language Arts activities
- b. Summer school age camp with approximately 25 students at each site
- c. 4K Enrollment still open

VI. School Reports

- a. IC/SJ/SM: Presented by Kelly K. Mechelke
 - i. WFV flyer and an overview presented of this fundraising event
 - ii. Priest needed for the opening prayer prior to WFV: Very Rev. Don Meuret will do this
 - iii. IC almsgiving at Lent included Masika Choir and Casa Hogar
 - iv. First Communion weekend
 - v. Regis Jazz Band performed at all three elementary schools
 - vi. St. James has Royal Reader event May 1st

- vii. St. James received Ann Marie Grant towards computer lab
- viii. St. Mary's new playground in the works
 - 1. Patty Usher inquired of the funding for the playground
 - 2. Kelly K. Mechelke responded with Choice funds and WFV monies and discussed the need to make the playground more age-appropriate and on the same side of the street in order to recapture some of the points the school is losing on the assessment in this aspect
 - 3. Patty Usher eluded to the St. Mary's Capital Campaign
 - 4. Kelly K. Mechelke responded that heating/Ac is in discussions for this
 - 5. Barb Haag asked if the Choice Funds were always the answer for these additional projects
 - 6. Mark Gobler replied Choice funds are not sustainable funds, cannot be depended on as a source of income, and are utilized more towards special projects
 - 7. Patty Usher asked for a prioritized list of special projects
 - 8. Mark Gobler stated that it is decided year to year and Finance Advisory contributes feedback on these suggested projects
- b. RMS/RHS: Presented by Paul Pedersen
 - i. 2014/2015 Wrap up
 - ii. 2015/2016 Preparations consisting of course offerings, distance learning implementation, summer readings lists, school supply lists, etc
 - iii. Recent and Upcoming Events consisting of Spain trip, Prom, Pep Assembly for State Forensics, Basketball run, Pro-Life Speakers, ACT Aspire Testing

VII. Communications Report: Presented by Meghan Kulig

- a. Rambler Report: next volume out in July
- b. Walk for Virtues communications including spot on WEAU on April 29th to showcase WFV
- c. Catholic Schools Night at the ballpark event June 7th
- d. Parish Secretaries Meeting on March 31st
 - i. Keeping bulletins and information consistent
 - ii. Diocesan mailing lists for baptismal tuition vouchers, congrats, and birthday wishes
- e. Survey results
- f. JB Systems: Teacher websites being standardized for a consistent look
- g. One Billion Stories \$10,000 Marketing Video: "keep the lead" message out on this

VIII. Central Office Report: Presented by Mark Gobler

- a. Handouts:
 - i. Proposed Commission Dates to be confirmed at May Commission Meeting
 - ii. 2015/2016 Calendar
 - iii. Enrollment Graph
- b. Denise Boos: last day May 1st, application submission by May 5th, interview dates tentatively May 7th and 14th
 - i. Interviewers attending will be Foundation Member, Finance Member, Patty Usher, etc.
 - ii. RCS will receive Diocesan Support for the Controller position until someone hired
- c. Non-Sibi: none this spring, moving this back to a fall event, tentatively Sep 19th or 26th at this point
- d. Distinguished Alumni Award via the Foundation
 - i. Return it to the Regis gym, no longer hosting at Florian
 - ii. Add a legacy board at Regis for contributions
- e. Enrollment Numbers
 - i. Meghan Kulig sending out a postcard with tuition rates
 - ii. Mark Gobler highlighted the higher enrollment at the RMS to RHS transition point
- f. Projects
 - i. Lockers: 2 proposals pending
 - ii. Auditorium Seats: 21" cushioned seats via the "Buy A Seat" model

- iii. Lights: would be improved with any overage money from seats
- g. Comments on the Catholic Identity Meeting
 - i. Virtual school still in talks, partnership with McDonell to help out Diocese of Superior
 - ii. Religion via Skype-type model
 - iii. May 1st will present the feasibility of this
 - iv. Pilot it in 9th grade
 - v. Take Odysseyware and infuse Catholic immersion and trademark a Regis/McDonell version, like an iForward or McFarland who has more high school students in virtual than brick and mortar and be less expensive than Seton; trademark would be bring in revenue
 - vi. Val Knobloch commented that the technology is in place and the curriculum building blocks are in place, just needs some adding to
 - vii. Patty Usher raised the question of copyright issues

Closing Prayer and Adjournment at 6:45pm: Rev. George Thayikuzhithottu