

Regis Catholic Schools
Education Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 19, 2015
Regis Room 107, 5:00pm

Present:

Becky Alexander	Val Knobloch	Paul Pedersen
Denise Boos	Rev. Tom Krieg	Tanya Schmitz
Renee Cassidy	Pat Lange	Reid Sollberger
Mark Gobler	Kelly K. Mechelke	Rev. Felix Tigoy
Rev. Alan Guanella	Very Rev. Don Meuret	Patty Usher
Barb Haag		

Absent:

John Cook	Meghan Kulig	Rev. George Thayikuzhithottu
Gayle Flaig	Rev. David Olson	Bill Uelmen
Teresa Johnson	Rev. Derek Sakowski	

Minutes: Tanya Schmitz

I. Opening

Call to Order: Patty Usher
Opening Prayer: Fr. Alan Guanella
January Minutes: Accepted

II. Music Department Report

- a. RMS/RHS Report: Presented by Jeff Walk
 - i. Numbers are good, 70% in RHS Band/Choir
 - ii. Continuing to enjoy new rooms
 - iii. Memphis Trip next April
 - iv. T.A. every Tuesday to create lessons
 - v. Meeting with 6th grade 3X/wk
 - vi. Parent organization good at filling department needs
 - vii. Recommendation of reinstating 5th grade band
- b. Elementary Report: Presented by Heather Mecikalski
 - i. Kindergarten 30 min/wk
 - ii. 1st-5th grades 60 min/wk
 - iii. Two performance programs per school year
 - iv. Works with priests for School Mass
 - v. Preps cantors for School Mass
 - vi. Music Centers for small group learning
 - vii. Recommendation of reinstating 5th grade band
- c. Renee Cassidy commented that IC students voluntarily give up lunch to do angel choir and IC is seeing a high male participation
- d. Rev. Alan Guanella supports the introduction of 5th grade band
- e. Val Knobloch supports the introduction of 5th grade band
- f. Kelly K. Mechelke recommended implementation of a fee schedule to add sustainability to the program
- g. Denise Boos mentioned this as an item to be brought to the Finance Committee
- h. Patty Usher recommended old financials from previous 5th grade band years to be pulled for review
- i. Mark Gobler asked for this conversation to be continued at the next Leadership Meeting

III. March 19 Education Commission Meeting

- a. Mark Gobler recommended cancellation of the March 19, 2015 Education Commission Meeting due to an overscheduled RCS calendar
- b. Meeting will be canceled, not rescheduled
- c. Next Education Commission Meeting will be Thursday April 16, 2015

IV. Finance Report: Presented by Denise Boos

- a. Request for 50% discount on childcare for K-12 teachers was denied by the Finance Committee
 - i. This program, if added, would have provided four families (or five children) at \$5000/child approximately \$25000 in benefits
 - ii. Finance Committee decided to deny this as they could utilize the same dollar amount to provide an increase to all teachers instead of a benefit to four teachers
- b. Parish Subsidy Rates
 - i. Debt paid off
 - ii. Priests and RCS agreed on a 2.5% decrease (approx. \$68000 total)
 - iii. Using money to increase teacher salaries
 - iv. Salary scale sent to Diocese on February 19, 2015 for approval
- c. Patty Usher asked if this is a permanent increase which Denise Boos replied that it is built in
- d. Rev. Felix Tigoy asked about incoming funds to which Denise Boos responded the Foundation \$191,000

V. Choice Program Proposal: Presented by Mark Gobler

- a. Proposal came out February 4, 2015 from Governor
- b. Proposal is only a bill at this time
- c. Proposes an uncapped program
 - i. Current students vested at the current rate
 - ii. School Years of 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 would be \$5500, app. \$2000 less per student
 - iii. Proposal trades uncapping program for less money
- d. Proposal eliminates the district percentage cap
- e. Proposal eliminates the Choice student state test
- f. Proposal eliminates current families eligibility except in the following entrance years:
 - i. Kindergarten
 - ii. 1st Grade
 - iii. 9th Grade
- g. Proposes funds come from Equalized State Aid Average or Public School Funding versus General Taxpayer Fund
- h. Proposal will be voted on June 30, 2015
- i. Patty Usher returned from January 2015 Education Commission Meeting the topic of the ECASD vote of the 2015/2016 calendar
- j. Mark Gobler announced the RCS Calendar for 2015/2016 will be released soon
- k. Mark Gobler confirmed the following for 2015/2016:
 - i. Open House August 31, 2015
 - ii. First Day of School September 1, 2015
- l. Barb Haag requested RCS Calendar to be released each year as soon as possible to make it easier for families with employment that requires early vacation requesting

VI. Standing Committees:

- a. Governance: None
- b. School Life:
 - i. Barb Haag commented on the Open Forum being an opportunity to spark interest in Education Commission Subcommittee Members
 - ii. Patty Usher will address the structure at the Open Forum with the secondary goal of finding talented people to staff these subcommittees
- c. Teaching and Learning: None

- d. Catholic Identity:
 - i. Becky Alexander said this subcommittee meets again in March; could use to add one or two members of a different constituency or demographic
 - ii. Paul Pedersen asked for consideration of RHS students being tasked with any of these subcommittee positions
 - iii. Very Rev. Don Meuret recommended having non-Catholics on Commission
 - iv. Patty Usher recommended reviewing and amending the by-laws if need be to allow this
 - v. Renee Cassidy recommended staff members be invited to be on Commission

VII. Foundation Report: None

VIII. Communications Director Report: Presented by Mark Gobler on behalf of Meghan Kulig

- a. Handout: Communications Update reviewed by Commission Members

IX. Development Centers Report : None

X. Kindergarten Previews

- a. Numbers were down, but tours and follow-up is good
- b. Consideration for an evening preview was requested
- c. Patty Usher asked if tracking of current or new families was done to which Renee Cassidy and Kelly K. Mechelke responded that there are more new families

XI. School Reports

- a. IC: Presented by Renee Cassidy
 - i. Lenten Almsgiving: all benefactors are children's organizations this year
 - ii. Battle of the Books for 4th and 5th grades is starting
 - iii. Accreditation meeting upcoming
- b. SM: Presented by Kelly K. Mechelke
 - i. Lenten Almsgiving: Fr. Wilger Scholarship, Casa Hogar Orphanage, Sojourner House
 - ii. Battle of the Books for 4th and 5th grades is starting, will have a shared finale with SJ
- c. SJ: Presented by Kelly K. Mechelke
 - i. Lenten Almsgiving: Chippewa Valley Habitat for Humanity and Bolivia Making the Old New Again Project with the Diocesan Mission Parish
 - ii. Battle of the Books for 4th grade is starting, will have a shared finale with SM
- d. RMS/RHS: Presented by Paul Pedersen
 - i. Asking staff for feedback on overscheduling events and activities on the calendar to protect instructional time
 - ii. Parent/teacher conferences were successful, would like more strategic scheduling with a tiered system of scheduling families whose meetings are most-needed and then opening up the general scheduling
 - iii. Reconciliation needs to be rescheduled due to Deanery meeting
 - iv. ACT on March 3, 2015 and ACT WorkKeys® on March 4, 2015
 - v. Sports: School days undecided for possibility of state games
 - vi. Religion:
 - 1. Two new banners in Regis relative to Lent, considering more banners to be put on rotation for the many seasons
 - 2. Added an icon behind altar for Catholic Identity
 - vii. One or two tours weekly, mostly for incoming 9th grade
 - viii. Five shadows in 8th grade for next year's 9th grade with one more next week
 - ix. Successful parent open houses
 - x. Pupil Services, Pam Foegen
 - 1. Utilized in the middle school
 - 2. Teachers are excited to have a neutral entity to affirm their observations

3. Barb Haag asked who Pam Foegen reviews in which Paul Pedersen responded that Pam Foegen does general observation as well as teacher-requested observations
4. Patty Usher asked if there were any parent inquiries for Pam Foegen to which Kelly K. Mechelke replied there was
5. Patty Usher asked if Pam Foegen's services were utilized in the high school to which Paul Pedersen replied that her prime use is elementary, secondary use in middle, and RHS Counselors will cover the high school students
6. Chippewa High School Hockey Player, Mick Caron, who was injured in a car accident was the recipient of Jeans for Jesus in the amount of \$500 on behalf of Regis and McDonell

XII. Central Office Report: Presented by Mark Gobler

- a. Chamber of Commerce Meeting to receive a plaque for 100 years of business in Eau Claire
- b. Call from Superior Diocese regarding a future partnership
 - i. Opens up discussion regarding distance learning and online/hybrid learning at the high school level
 - ii. Perhaps middle school level down the road
- c. Crestview Academy Meeting to discuss Chromebook™ use at the middle school level

Misc:

*Mark Gobler announced discussions with SFB for opening up credit cards are in the works, but not as an RCS endorsement of SFB

*Patty Usher requested a report on online enrollment to which Mark Gobler commented that Teresa Johnson is very pleased and there was only one technical issue for last names A-F at the very beginning which was quickly amended

Closing Prayer and Adjournment: Rev. Alan Guanella