

**Regis Catholic Schools
Education Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 21, 2016
Regis Room 107, 5:00pm**

Present:

Becky Alexander	Rev. Tom Krieg	Paul Pedersen
Renee Cassidy	Meghan Kulig	Rev. Derek Sakowski
Mark Gobler	Pat Lange	Tanya Schmitz
Rev. Alan Guanella	Linda Marx	Reid Sollberger
Rev. Paul Hoffman	Kelly K. Mechelke	Patty Usher
Val Knobloch	Very Rev. Don Meuret	

Absent:

Gayle Flaig	Carisa Smiskey	Bill Uelmen
Rev. Dan Oudenhoven	Rev. George Thayikuzhithottu	

Minutes: Tanya Schmitz

I. Opening

Call to Order: Patty Usher 5:00 p.m.

Opening Prayer: Rev. Alan Guanella

Acceptance of February Minutes: Accepted

II. Standing Committees

a. School Life presented by Pat Lange

1. Met with athletics, proposed faith group, etc
2. Utilize committee as a fundraising clearinghouse
3. Spoke with Bill Uelmen who was on board and explained what Development is and that they are attempting to decrease fundraising activities to one for each group once per year
4. Mark Gobler used this opportunity to advise the group that the goal is to minimize the buying of "stuff" and find alternative ideas without pulling from the major donors of Foundation and Advancement
5. Create centralization of apparel sales in cooperation with Meghan Kulig
6. By-laws of the group were discussed
7. Next meeting will discuss statistics of all current and past fundraisers
8. Paul Pedersen added that School Life will serve as a better communication conduit between the Booster Club and the Education Commission
9. Patty Usher inquired as to how the clearinghouse will work to which Paul Pedersen responded the first step is to calendar all the events to get a clear picture of what they are working with

b. Teaching and Learning presented by Val Knobloch

1. Principal Kelly K. Mechelke to share updated policies created from this committee later on this agenda

c. Catholic Identity presented by Becky Alexander

1. Pastor involvement discussed
2. Masses in other languages as Rev. Derek Sakowski speaks many languages
3. Rev. Derek Sakowski can be requested as a classroom guest speaker
4. Judge Theisen spoke recently
5. Campus Ministry position open until April 25
6. Discussed complaints regarding the dress code
7. Meeting again next week

- d. Update on Curricular draft presented by Kelly K. Mechelke
Handout: Procedures for Constructing/Evaluating Curriculum
 - 1. Time stamp added per Rev. Derek Sakowski's request
 - 2. Clarity in charting adjustments made per Rev. Tom Krieg's request
 - 3. Next meeting is June 13
 - 4. Next step is to invite parent representatives from parishes/schools to join the committee
 - 5. Plans to meet three times per year: fall, mid-school year, and June
 - 6. Patty Usher asked about the recruitment process for gaining committee members to which Kelly K. Mechelke responded with her intentions to utilize Meghan Kulig for this and would accept any recommendations from the Education Commission
 - 7. Val Knobloch added that the small number of meetings per year, three, may encourage interest
 - 8. Discussion amongst the Education Commission regarding clarity of curriculum flow chart ensued: needs revision along with the possibility of combining the flow chart and triangular chart into one simple chart; it is requested to omit the numbering on the flow chart; possibly going with a Y shape to create a parallel bottom to begin where procedures align and then with an angle to the left for minor changes not needing to go through the Deanery and an angle to the right for major changes that need to go through the Deanery
 - 9. Once Curricular draft is approved, Meghan Kulig will attach it to a blurb and get it out for recruitment for Kelly K. Mechelke

- III. Forensics Demonstration presented by Julia Szepieniec
 - a. 22 individuals, 17 performances at State with all individuals placing in gold and/or silver
 - b. Reid Sollberger would like to acknowledge Miss Brey's dedication to Forensics

- IV. Communications Report presented by Meghan Kulig
 - a. 2015 Baptisms: 121 reported in the six contributing parishes
 - b. Faith Night with the Eau Claire Express is on June 5 at 5:00 p.m.
 - c. Rambler Report: latest edition just out with two seniors featured for their new business
 - d. Regis Athletics website is 12th in the North Central region with more than 13000 views
 - e. Children's Museum: exclusive discount for Regis families, RCS now officially partnered, access to traveling exhibits that can come into the schools

V. Old Business

- a. Retreat Updates presented by Paul Pedersen
 - 1. Seniors and Sophomores have completed their retreats with Freshmen and Juniors upcoming
- b. 2016-2017 School Calendar presented by Mark Gobler
 - 1. One less pupil contact day due to Easter Monday off
 - 2. Teachers still set for the same number of days due to Staff Development
 - 3. Room for two snow days
- c. Population of Demographics of Chippewa Valley presented by Mark Gobler
Handout: Demographics Packet
 - 1. Reduction in births creating a pool of only 400 children ages 2-5 in the parishes to recruit from
 - 2. Baptism acknowledgements and Children's Museum partnership should help in recruitment for this particular demographic to get them thinking about Regis Catholic Schools

VI. New Business

- a. Strategic Plan for 2016-2017 presented by Mark Gobler
Handout: Framework 2015-2016 with suggestions for 2016-2017 attached
 - 1. Mark Gobler asks that Education Commission take a look at this and come prepared with feedback to the May Education Commission Meeting; the May agenda will include this topic

- b. Building Improvement Updates Summer 2016 and Committee Vision presented by Mark Gobler
 - 1. Buildings and Grounds committee developed that includes all trades such as plumbing, electric, etc.
 - 2. Centralizing projects with this Buildings and Grounds committee is essential to focus and cost-savings
 - 3. Painting second floor Middle School wing and cafeteria slated for the summer: 2 employees taking this on with an estimated 120-160 hours of work anticipated
 - 4. Lockers: all new being installed on first floor, 270 count, each a bit wider
 - 5. Energy Costs: fluorescent being converted to LED being bid out with perhaps the first floor classrooms this year, may add some tile work with the change in fixtures; Finance Council expects a 1.3-year ROI time frame
 - 6. Patty Usher asked once Buildings and Grounds makes the list, how is it prioritized as to which items will be addressed; Mark Gobler responded via need and Finance Council; two members on the Buildings and Grounds Committee are on the Finance Council creating continuity
- c. Separate Baccalaureate/Graduation discussion facilitated by Rev. Alan Guanella
 - 1. 2016 will remain the same as in the past and will help determine whether or not adjustments will be made in 2017
 - 2. Every senior is receiving six tickets
 - 3. Rev. Alan Guanella recommended the gym if needed to which Paul Pedersen acknowledged the space conflict with the Senior lock-in
 - 4. Rev. Alan Guanella posed the alternative of taking graduation off premises
 - 5. Patty Usher asked about the class sizes of the 2016 and 2017 graduation classes to which Rev. Alan Guanella responded that they are similar
 - 6. Mark Gobler added that the Foundation purchased 40 folding chairs that can be added to the auditorium to create more seating if needed
 - 7. Discussion ended with letting the outcome of 2016 aid in a later decision for 2017
- d. Staffing for 2016-2017 presented by Mark Gobler
 - 1. Several retirements and resignations creating a lot of positions to be filled
 - 2. Rev. Derek Sakowski contributed the idea regarding premium pay for specialty subjects and hard-to-fill positions which was heavily supported by the Education Commission
 - 3. Mark Gobler added the dynamic statistics of 26 teachers retiring from ECASD with an additional 22 leaving the profession creating a tough market
 - 4. Very Rev. Don Meuret asks that he be sent the job postings to use in bulletins as he has had success in filling positions via this avenue in the past
- e. CVTC Opportunity presented by Paul Pedersen
 - 1. Program allows high school students to take their credits for dual credit: high school credit and college credit, is similar to Youth Options, is transferrable to UW-system colleges, and allows for earlier enrollment
 - 2. If 12 or more students sign up, then CVTC would send an instructor to Regis to teach who would be safe environment approved and thus possibly eliminate the need for Regis to hire teaching staff for certain positions, especially those specialty subjects and hard-to-fill positions; these tend to be electives
 - 3. A meeting is scheduled with CVTC on Monday to include Mark Gobler, Paul Pedersen, and Kelly K. Mechelke
 - 4. Patty Usher posed the question if this pulls from Distance Learning revenue to which Mark Gobler responded with a per student statistic example showing the cost/benefit analysis
 - 5. The CVTC Opportunity topic will be revisited at the May Education Commission meeting
- f. Change in Scrip Sales as of August 1, 2016 presented by Mark Gobler
 - 1. SFB no longer selling Scrip as of August 1, Scrip sales will return to Central Office
 - 2. Decline in sales contributed in part to relocation to SFB and in part to Choice families not needing to meet the family fee
 - 3. Mark Gobler highlighted that regulations state that a maximum of 8 hours may be paid to operate the Scrip program; all remaining work must be volunteer-based

4. Meghan Kulig added that additional strategies are being investigated such as cell phone on site to purchase Scrip immediately, partnering with Great Lakes to better market the program, adding a summer brochure
5. Mark Gobler added that marketing to alumni for nationwide vendors, creating a “banking” system allowing credits to be banked for a later date, and marketing to preschool parents to start buying Scrip are being considered
6. Reid Sollberger added that Choice families could be encouraged to utilize Scrip by the allowance of banking credits to be used later for athletic fees, music trips, etc.

VII. RCS Administrative Reports

- a. Religious Assessments presented by Rev. Alan Guanella
Handout: 2015-2016 Religious Assessment Results Packet
 1. Rev. Alan Guanella highlighted that 52 students tested in the 2014-2015 school year while 68 students did so this year which can skew the data some; also added that some testing sections have as few as two questions and that may represent the topic poorly
 2. Linda Marx inquired about a target number to which Rev. Alan Guanella responded ideally 100%
 3. Patty Usher asked about how parents were informed of scoring to which Rev. Alan Guanella answered a letter explaining the scoring, the actual scoring results for the individual student, and a handout on certain subject matter
- b. Middle and High School presented by Paul Pedersen
 1. German trip for 13 students went well
 2. Band/Choir are currently in Nashville
 3. ACT Aspire for Grades 9 and 10 on Tuesday and Thursday of next week
 4. Awards Ceremony at High School
 5. Mock car crash with Juniors and Seniors at Memorial
 6. Prom May 14 at Eau Claire Country Club
 7. Seniors’ last day is May 20
 8. Baccalaureate/Graduation is May 25 at 7:00 p.m. with lock-in to follow
 9. Mrs. Meldahl had her baby today at 9:43 a.m.
- c. Immaculate Conception and NCEA presented by Renee Cassidy
 1. Renee Cassidy and Mary Donnellan went to NCEA
 - i. 300 vendors and great networking event
 - ii. Mass with Bishop of San Diego
 - iii. Title II monies paid for the trip
 - iv. Convention in St. Louis next year
 - v. A major takeaway: a nun shared the following, “Try to smile because do you ever see Pope Francis not smiling?”
 2. Matsiko Orphanage Choir next week
 3. Science and Art Fair wrapped up
 4. First Communion is done
 5. Accreditation Report to be presented at the May Education Commission meeting
- d. St. James/St. Mary’s/Curriculum presented by Kelly K. Mechelke
 1. Sports Day May 18 at Regis for fourth and fifth graders from all elementary schools
 2. Walk for Virtues May 13 for all elementary schools
 3. Battle of the Books completed for both schools
 4. First Communion completed for both schools
 5. Science Fair at St. Mary’s
 6. Royal Reader at St. James with local celebrities
 7. 5th Grade Band returning to the elementary schools along with piano lessons

Closing and Adjournment at 6:45pm by Very Rev. Don Meuret