

**Regis Catholic Schools
Education Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 16, 2017
Regis Room 107, 5:00pm**

Present:

Becky Alexander	Rev. Tom Krieg	Rev. Derek Sakowski
Renee Cassidy	Meghan Kulig	Tanya Schmitz
Mark Gobler	Linda Marx	Linda Schultz
Rev. Alan Guanella	Kelly K. Mechelke	Carisa Smiskey
Rev. Paul Hoffman	Rev. Dan Oudenhoven	Patty Usher

Absent:

Gayle Flaig	Very Rev. Don Meuret	Rev. George Thayikuzhithottu
Kelly Hughes	Paul Pedersen	Bill Uelmen
Pat Lange	Reid Sollberger	

Minutes: Tanya Schmitz

****REV. DEREK SAKOWSKI ACTING DEAN IN THE ABSENCE OF VERY REV. DON MEURET FOR THIS MEETING****

- I. Opening
Call to Order: Patty Usher 5:00 p.m.
Opening Prayer: Rev. Alan Guanella
Acceptance of January Minutes: Accepted
- II. Standing Committees
 - a. School Life presented by Meghan Kulig
 - i. Discussion ensued regarding the need for this subcommittee due to the overlap of the Faith Council to which Patty Usher stated the subcommittee as part of the bylaws while Rev. Derek Sakowski offered it may be time to remove it from the bylaws to which Patty Usher asked that it be revisited with the next Chair
 - b. Teaching and Learning presented by Linda Schultz
HANDOUT: Guidelines for Enrollment and Class Offerings
 - i. Accreditation was mentioned during the last Teaching and Learning Committee which prompted discussion on the commission regarding AdvancED vs WRISA; AdvancED has higher standards and is nationally known when considering out-of-state colleges so the AdvancED Accreditation Commission is preferred
 - ii. Textbook and Materials and Curriculum Change Forms need committee recommendations sections then will come to commission for final approval
 - iii. Kudos was given to Paul Pedersen for the Concussion Policy
 - iv. STEM and blending of Math and Science curriculums
 - v. Enrollment Policy
 1. Rev. Derek Sakowski shared enrollment policy changes including the term "policy" to "guidelines", along with other wording and class size numbers to which Mark Gobler strongly agreed with and Meghan Kulig shared her appreciation of the human touch on the revised version
 2. Rev. Derek Sakowski gives a word of caution that the reducing staff expression on the revised version is typically caused by attrition without need to cut staff

****REV. DEREK SAKOWSKI, ACTING DEAN, ASKED FOR ANY CONCERNS; RECEIVING NONE, PATTY USHER AGAIN ASKED FOR CONCERNS; RECEIVING NONE, REV. DEREK SAKOWSKI WILL WAIT FOR VERY REV. DON MEURET'S RETURN FOR FINAL APPROVAL ON THE NEW GUIDELINES FOR ENROLLMENT AND CLASS OFFERINGS DOCUMENT****

- c. Catholic Identity and Mission Integration presented by Becky Alexander
 - i. Meeting next week, nothing to report

- III. Communications Report presented by Meghan Kulig
 - a. Half-price Kindergarten tuition helping open houses count as heard via Genesis
 - i. Rev. Derek Sakowski commented to thinking and strategizing for how to retain these students at the transition to first grade to which Meghan Kulig responded that in her nationwide research, free kindergarten is common and Mark Gobler added that he sees it as necessary for three years in order to gather data
 - b. Postcards, Facebook: some enrollments were the very next day following open houses; mailing lists from parishes
 - c. Rambler Report in March to feature two students entering the military, Ethan Cook and Paul Alexander; Meghan Kulig expressed that a broad range has been/will be highlighted in the Rambler Reports, with musical talent, entrepreneurs, military, and next up faith

- IV. Old Business
 - a. Catholic Schools Week Recap
 - i. Discussion within the commission about what was done well and what could be improved upon in regards to Catholic Schools Week
 - b. Outdoor Wellness/Athletic Update presented by Mark Gobler
 - i. Plans are still being adjusted, meeting again in a few weeks
 - c. Hispanic Outreach presented by Mark Gobler
 - i. Busing is critical and an introduction to IC, RMS, and RHS is needed; perhaps a weekend Mass at IC is needed using the Regis buses for transportation between St. Mary's and Immaculate Conception; Mark Gobler will talk to Kayla Bahhub and Renee Cassidy regarding this possibility
 - ii. Mark Gobler visited the idea of lighthouse schools for adults and Renee Cassidy added utilizing one of our schools for literacy volunteers for a project such as this: English as a Second Language for parents of RCS students
 - d. Sports Day Sponsorship presented by Carisa Smiskey
 - i. Northwestern Bank on River Prairie Drive would like to sponsor the Sports Day t-shirts which would include having their bank name on the back; this purchase typically comes out of the elementary budgets
 - ii. Mark Gobler added that RCS does have a banking account with Northwestern Bank and asked if there were any concerns with this, to which the commission had none

- V. New Business
 - a. Early Enrollment Numbers for 2017/2018 presented by Mark Gobler
Handout: Preliminary 2017/2018 Enrollment Data
 - b. Madison/Choice Expansion presented by Mark Gobler
 - i. Scott Walker bill advocating an increase of \$200 per student
 - ii. Proposal would make the Milwaukee version the statewide standard to create one equal system as opposed to three different systems
 - iii. Proposal would eliminate cap, raise qualifying income to 300% of poverty level
 - iv. If passed, DPI would create another window for applying
 - v. Mark Gobler added that our tuition cost is still less than public education so we still save the state money
 - vi. Patty Usher clarified that this would create a new enrollment window in the summer to which Mark Gobler concurred that it would
 - c. Advancement Report presented by Mark Gobler
Handout: Advancement Report February 2017 prepared by Bill Uelmen

- d. Spanish Immersion School presented by Mark Gobler
 - i. Tom Reichenbacher recommended Spanish immersion school being a Catholic school with a pass on 4K and Kindergarten, insisted grades 1-12 must have Catholic identity
 - ii. Perhaps a coop with McDonnell at St. Olaf
 - iii. Discussion regarding a sample school in Iowa led to a caution that offering a Spanish immersion school may reduce students at the three other elementary schools; the goal would be to assess how many new students RCS could attract with this program
 - iv. Rev. Derek Sakowski added that if the goal is to attract Hispanics, then the draw is English, where a Spanish immersion school would be a draw to those who are English-speaking

VI. Staff Reports

- a. St. Mary's presented by Carisa Smiskey
 - i. 100th day of school, Valentine's, Penny Wars for Fr. Wilger Scholarship
 - ii. Grade 5 to RMS for Shadow Day, Kindergarten Preview
 - iii. Grade 2 First Communion Retreat
 - iv. Altoona looking to change 4K time for next year
- b. St. James presented by Kelly K. Mechelke
 - i. Books and Bagels with Scholastic Book Fair had sales of \$4100, which is \$600 more than last year and \$1500 more than the year before
 - ii. Officer Mike Major visited Grade 5 students regarding bullying, RAM Hockey readers
 - iii. Thank you for Father George for pizza lunch visit
 - iv. COR at St. James and St. Mary's has been successful
 - v. Grade 5 to RMS for Shadow Day, Kindergarten Preview
- c. Immaculate Conception presented by Renee Cassidy
 - i. Grade 5 to RMS for Shadow Day; Kindergarten Preview
 - ii. Parent Teacher Conferences
 - iii. Scholastic Book Fair
 - iv. Angel Choir for National Anthem for Regis High School Basketball game
 - v. RAM Hockey
 - vi. Thank you for Father George for pizza lunch visit
- d. RMS/RHS presented by Mark Gobler

HANDOUT: Regis Campus Report prepared by Paul Pedersen (attached following minutes)

HANDOUT: Preliminary Advanced Course Offerings brochure prepared by Kristi Herbenson

 - i. Mark Gobler shared that Paul Pedersen is working in Superior/Duluth regarding hybrid classes with supervision, Ashland didn't give enough support and were unprepared for the rigor, will know more next month
 - ii. Rev. Alan Guanella expanded on #9 of Paul Pedersen's campus report sharing the Preliminary Advanced Course Offerings brochure prepared by Kristi Herbenson that is meant to clarify the online course catalog
 - iii. Rev. Derek Sakowski shared that GPA weighted calculations are being looked at to which Patty Usher expressed concern as it applies to college admissions to which Rev. Derek Sakowski responded that this is meant for internal use only to differentiate for valedictorians

Closing Prayer by Rev. Dan Oudenhoven
 Adjournment by Patty Usher at 6:24 p.m.

Regis Catholic Schools Commission Meeting

February 16, 2017

Regis Campus Report

1. Second semester classes are off to a smooth start. A few minor issues with Distance Learning Classes starting at different times/dates which were quickly resolved.
2. Catholic Schools Week:
 - a. 8th grade Brains Teams won their portion of the Brains and Brawn competition.
 - b. Kids Against Hunger service project went very well. We have a tentative date already set for next year during Catholic Schools Week.
 - c. Mass with the Bishop went very well.
 - d. The making of rosaries by high school students and the middle school ski trip all went according to plan.
3. Winter Carnival Dance went smoothly.
4. All four of the 5th grade shadow days (partnered with the 6th graders) were excellent. Lots of positive feedback from the 5th grade teachers/students/parents.
5. 5th grade parent (current families) open houses will take place on Monday, February 27 and Thursday, March 2, both at 6:00p.m.
6. Junior Achievement Ethics Day will take place on Thursday, February 23 from 8-9 for all grades.
7. ACT Exam will be given to Regis junior at St. Patricks school cafeteria on Tuesday, Feb 28 from 8:00-12noon. The ACT Work Keys will be given the following day at St. Pat's and arrangements have been made for students to attend Mass for Ash Wednesday.
8. Regis Night of the Arts will take place on Monday, March 13. The art fair and book fair will take place in and around the gym from 5pm-7pm. The music portion of this evening will start at 7pm and will also be in the Regis gym.
9. An evening is being set in the first half of March to invite parents of current Freshman, Sophomores and Juniors to gain a better understanding of different course offerings that Regis continues to expand upon. Also to talk about the role of the school counselor in college admissions and career academic planning for students. Other items to be touched on will include: taking the ACT and ACT Work Keys, financial planning for college, filling out the FAFSA, etc.
10. Parent Teacher Conferences will take place on Thursday, February 23 and Friday, February 24 from 8-12noon. At Regis, the second round of conferences require the teachers to request to see certain students/parents first, then other conference time slots are filled in by parent request.