

**Regis Catholic Schools**  
**Education Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, May 18, 2017**  
**Regis Room 107, 5:00 p.m.**

Present:

Renee Cassidy	Paul Pedersen	Becky Alexander
Mark Gobler	Linda Marx	Rev. Paul Hoffman
Rev. Alan Guanella	Very Rev. Don Meuret	Reid Sollberger
Meghan Kulig	Rev. Dan Oudenhoven	Patty Usher
Kelly Hughes	Rev. Derek Sakowski	Linda Schultz
Carisa Smiskey	Rev. George Thayikuzhithottu	

Absent:

Pat Lange	Kelly K. Mechelke	Bill Uelmen
Gayle Flaig	Rev. Tom Krieg	Tanya Schmitz

Minutes: Reid Sollberger

I. Opening

Call to Order: Patty Usher 5:02 p.m.  
Opening Prayer: Rev. Alan Guanella  
Acceptance of April Minutes: Accepted

II. Communications (Meghan Kulig)

- a. Senior Survey update. Survey completed with 100% participation. Results will be distributed to education council as well as faith council.
- b. Tickets to Faith night at Eau Claire express were distributed. Extra family orders due May 26<sup>th</sup>.
- c. Pictures have been arranged to be taken at upcoming Regis HS graduation.
- d. Graduation will be live streamed on the Regis Facebook page and website, and archived on the live page as well.
- e. Energy bus event for teaching staff is set for June 8.
- f. Planning and donations for Regis Auction is well underway. Currently \$18,000 in sponsorships have been obtained.
- g. The Auction will also allow online bidding for the first time this year.

III. Budget (Kelly Hughes)

- a. Presentation of updated budget
  - i. Enrollment fees on handout will be applied to NEXT year's budget. But family fees are recorded on THIS years budget.
  - ii. Foundation and Endowment growth mainly due to growth in the market.
  - iii. Scrip Revenue down \$70,000 from last year.
    1. Patty Usher asked about decline in scrip sales. Due to Choice families not using because they don't need to pay family fee? Decline in rebate percentage of certain retailers?
    2. Meghan Kulig said that a contact will be made to families who have not used scrip at all to try and generate usage.
    3. Patty Usher asked if there was a level of sales that scrip sales could dip to that would warrant concern. Kelly Hughes replied that sales are not yet near a level of concern.
    4. Reid Sollberger asked about choice families using scrip sales to fund other expences such as athletic fees. Mark Gobler replied that this will happen and will be made

known. Kelly Hughes expressed privacy concerns, but since Teresa Johnson works directly with choice families, that she could contact them regarding this.

- iv. Athletics monies down because other entities helped fund many athletic expenses.
- v. Regis Foundation shared some costs with RCS until 6/30/16, and payback was recorded in June.
- vi. Regis budget is currently in the black

#### IV. Standing Committees

- a. School life: No report, Pat Lange absent
- b. Teaching & Learning: Linda Schultz
  - i. One course will be renamed.
  - ii. RCS will institute Alliance for Catholic Education Collaborative for Academic Excellence (ACE Collaborative).
  - iii. During upcoming staff development, teaching staff will be instructed on how to request changes to curriculum.
  - iv. Next meeting is October 3
- c. Catholic Identity: Becky Alexander
  - i. Grade wide retreats going well this year. Committee recommends that a set group of high school students be trained to assist Campus minister Kristin Betlej with execution of next year's middle school retreats.
  - ii. May saw both a school wide Rosary, as well as participation in May Crowning.
  - iii. Religion curriculum being re-written
  - iv. Campus Minister Kristin Betlej applied for and received two grants for an outside speaker to visit Regis.
  - v. New Regis Chaplain Daniel Thelen will be welcomed on 6/29. His schedule is being worked on.

#### V. Enrollment update

- a. Numbers are consistent with last report.
- b. RHS picked up 1 9<sup>th</sup> grader and 2 10<sup>th</sup> graders.
- c. 159 students receiving vouchers.
- d. Rev. Alan Guanella asked about impact of the ½ price kindergarten for 2017-2018. Mark Gobler reported modest excitement.
- e. Rev. Derek Sakowski expressed concern about retention for NEXT year, as those who received ½ price kindergarten then have to pay full price for 1<sup>st</sup> grade.
- f. Paul Pedersen reported that he has been giving 2 to 3 tours per week of Regis Middle and High school, on par or better than last May.
- g. He also reported that he was contacted by an administrator for the new Marshfield hospital being constructed, as it will more than likely need to bring in many skilled workers into the Eau Claire area.
- h. Patty Usher asked if RCS works with realtors to make contacts. Mark Gobler reported that local relators were a bit too unorganized to work with consistently. Meghan Kulig said that RCS works closely with the Eau Claire Chamber.

#### VI. Old Business

- a. Outside project
  - i. Mark Gobler said recent media attention (Leader Telegram Article, WEAU report) was inconveniently premature. RCS is still gathering bids and wanted to make project known to certain people before news broke.
  - ii. Fundraising goal is between \$1.3 and \$1.5 Million. Currently, \$520,000 in pledges over two years have been made. Some of this is in the form of Regis families in construction pledging time/materials for project.
  - iii. Patty Usher asked what happens if fundraising is tapped out before reaching goal. Mark Gobler said that Regis can phase in parts of project, replacing certain parts of the field

but not others. There are 3 phases of the project and an order of priority. Advancement Director Bill Uelmen confident that fundraising can achieve goal. Reserves are also available for project.

- iv. Patty Usher asked if maintenance costs are part of known costs. Mark Gobler reported that the turf will last 12-14 years, but that the bulk of the costs are in laying the foundation for the turf, which won't need replacing. Current lighting is adequate and will stay. A 6 foot high fence will be placed along Hastings way at a cost of \$50,000. This will allow protection of the field, but also allow RHS to show off field to community.
- v. Mark Gobler also reported that a slab will be put in between RHS and Keith street for Bus and van parking.

VII. Strategic Plan

- a. 1<sup>st</sup> draft of revision distributed.
- b. No changes to Core Values and Central Goals.
- c. Mark Gobler asked council to think of changes to apply for strategic plan during June meeting so plan can be final by August.

VIII. New Business

- a. Mark Gobler reports on diocesan meeting about Teacher and Principal shortage. Diocese discussed idea about smaller Catholic schools using larger schools/districts as 'hub'. To help with affiliations, not as being 'part of'.
- b. Rev. Derek Sakowski asked if smaller districts would relax degree requirements for administrators.
- c. Staffing update:
  - i. Mark Gobler went to Education Job Fair at UWEC. There was much competition.
  - ii. RCS was able to obtain 25 resumes from both Catholic and non-Catholic students. The challenge is that most don't graduate until next December.
- d. Mark Gobler discussed RHS Baseball team (unprompted by Coach Niese), collecting and donating gift cards and other things to McDonnell Senior Andrew Ausman, whose parents suffered serious medical conditions. The Andrew's Father was a Regis Graduate, and Coached the RHS baseball team from 1986-1990.
- e. A change in the by-laws was discussed to allow two new, non-voting members of the education council. One to represent the teachers, and one student representative.
  - i. Rev. Alan Guanella reported that he had a seat on the Education Council as a student at La Crosse Aquinas High School. He reported to the student council.
  - iii. Rev. Derek Sakowski talked about communication issues between the commission and faculty during his time at Stevens Point Pacelli.
  - iv. Linda Schultz asked if minutes could be sent to all staff members. Mark Gobler said this is something that can be implemented.
  - v. By-laws could be changed with support, which seemed to be strong.
  - vi. Patty Usher will draft language to implement.

IX. School Reports

- a. Reports sent ahead of time to make meeting more efficient.
- b. Rev. Alan Guanella suggested that principals email school reports to Teresa Johnson, who in turn could email bundled reports to commission in one email.

X. Patty Usher wished Rev. Alan Guanella well as he departs due to further education per Bishop Callahan's assignment. Mark Gobler and Paul Pederson joined in thanking Rev. Guanella for his time spent at Regis High/Middle School.

Closing Prayer by Rev. Alan Guanella

Adjournment by Patty Usher at 6:30 p.m.

Those wishing a tour of current outdoor facilities were given a tour by Mark Gobler.