

**Regis Catholic Schools**  
**Education Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, September 15, 2016**  
**Regis Room 107, 5:00pm**

Present:

Becky Alexander	Linda Marx	Linda Schultz
Renee Cassidy	Kelly K. Mechelke	Carisa Smiskey
Mark Gobler	Very Rev. Don Meuret	Reid Sollberger
Rev. Alan Guanella	Paul Pedersen	Rev. George Thayikuzhithottu
Meghan Kulig	Rev. Derek Sakowski	Patty Usher
Pat Lange	Tanya Schmitz	

Absent:

Gayle Flaig	Rev. Tom Krieg	Bill Uelmen
Rev. Paul Hoffman	Rev. Dan Oudenhoven	

Minutes: Tanya Schmitz

- I. Opening
  - Call to Order: Patty Usher 5:00 p.m.
  - Opening Prayer: Rev. Alan Guanella
  - Acceptance of August Minutes: Accepted
  
- II. Standing Committees
  - a. School Life presented by Pat Lange
    - i. Latest meeting reviewed everything put in place
  - b. Governance: nothing to report
  - c. Teaching and Learning presented by Linda Schultz
    - i. Next meeting October 6
    - ii. Latest additions: Jodi Erickson for St. James, Jessie Crow for St. Mary's, Charly Kostka for RMS, Val Knobloch for RHS, IC still open
  - d. Catholic Identity: nothing to report
  
- III. Old Business
  - a. Dress Code presented by Principals
    - Handouts: Elementary, Middle, and High School Dress Codes
    - i. Regis Code is student-designed; enforced via same gender Dean
    - ii. Overall recommendation that girls be more conscience of length of skirts/shorts
    - iii. Becky Alexander and Kelly K. Mechelke suggested that parents should also be notified of infractions, not just the student
    - iv. Kelly K. Mechelke emphasized consistency at the elementary level
    - v. Reid Sollberger recommended listing the three colors of pants that are acceptable, on the Regis dress code and points out wording error on #7 of Regis dress code: leggings *may* be worn under...
    - vi. Very Rev. Don Meuret asserted that clarity on color of pants is a must to which Paul Pedersen replied that adjustments will be made with student involvement
    - vii. Simplification of dress code recommended by Patty Usher and supported by Kelly K. Mechelke

- b. Virtual Update presented by Paul Pedersen
  - i. No Ashland students at this time, River Falls uses two Odysseyware seats, Stone Lake has two students for full course work, Waumandee uses four seats for Math only
  - ii. John Cook and Paul Pedersen visited the Diocese of Superior that netted the Stone Lake seats
- c. Scrip Update presented by Mark Gobler
  - i. Returning Scrip to Central Office is increasing sales
  - ii. Three volunteers lined up so far, but could use more
  - iii. More utilizing Presto Pay

#### IV. New Business

- a. Accreditation presented by Renee Cassidy  
Handout: Accreditation Progress Report
  - i. Four improvement plans in place including implementation of Pam Foegen, Pupil Services Director and data-driven learning via implementation of PALS, Aimsweb, and ACT Aspire
  - ii. This year is a quiet year, but next year Renee Cassidy will be ramping up teams
- b. Communication Report presented by Meghan Kulig  
Handout: Regis Charity Auction 2016 Donation Wish List
  - i. RCS Auction needs volunteers and an online volunteer signup is being setup; students are open to volunteer, however, Meghan Kulig would like to see the staff volunteer
  - ii. Non-Sibi is scheduled for January
  - iii. Next issue of Rambler Report is in the works
  - iv. Flyer being developed to promote kindergarten enrollment within current 4K programs with an invitation to tour
  - v. Linda Schultz inquired as to the utilization of ads in parish bulletins to which Meghan Kulig responded that this avenue is currently being utilized
  - vi. Meghan Kulig highlighted latest marketing tool, Spirit Shirts, distributed to preschool through fifth grade students promoting Regis Catholic Schools
  - vii. Meghan Kulig is planning involvement in the downtown Eau Claire trick-or-treating event by handing out RCS pencils at the Children's Museum on Halloween afternoon
- c. Curriculum/Student Progress Monitoring presented by Kelly K. Mechelke
  - i. Following through on Accreditation recommendations by implementing data-driven learning and using weekly grade level meetings to facilitate this
    - 1. PALS for K-1
    - 2. Aimsweb for 2-8
    - 3. ACT Aspire for 9-10
  - ii. Progress monitoring 3-4 times/year, targeting those who are slipping as well as strengthening high flyers
  - iii. PALS is very user friendly, Aimsweb took time to grasp, but the PALS to Aimsweb transition is smooth
- d. Feasibility Study of Multi-Purpose Outdoor Facilities presented by Mark Gobler  
Handout: Proposed Upgrades to Regis Campus Five-Year Plan
  - i. Studied Cumberland, Cameron, Stanley-Boyd Facilities
  - ii. Company out of Steven's Point presenting site plan on October 5
  - iii. Current facility has been a physical education teaching station and utilized for after school football since 1977
  - iv. Bill Uelmen has received commitments for the cost with design based on safety not aesthetics

- v. Mark Gobler asks for someone on the Education Commission to serve on the committee for this outdoor facility; let him know if you are interested
- vi. Natural grass or synthetic for the field itself with multiple options for the track
  - 1. Natural grass requires non-use of the area for a year which effects physical education classes and sports
  - 2. Synthetic turf requires replacement 10-15 year out, but only takes 2-3 months to be ready for use; Rev. Alan Guanella pointed out both options require watering
  - 3. Rev. Derek Sakowski inquired about irrigation being present now to which Mark Gobler responded it is not functional
  - 4. Rev. Alan Guanella suggested reviewing much-needed inside plans: auditorium cooling, ceilings, upstairs lockers, upstairs bathrooms
  - 5. Mark Gobler added the need to make Regis ADA-compliant; commented to the annual costs of operating an elevator versus possible chairlifts and utilizing former Commission-member, Barb Haag, as a resource for this
  - 6. Patty Usher asked for clarity in whether Bill Uelmen's commitments are hard donors or pledges to which Mark Gobler responded "hard commitments"
  - 7. Becky Alexander inquired as to the feasibility of football games at the location to which Mark Gobler responded no due to lack of parking and the garage location, however, softball and soccer could be possible
  - 8. Patty Usher recommended a body to be formed that deals with capital investments, aging facilities; discussion of this possible at Buildings and Grounds meeting on September 26
  - 9. Mark Gobler ended this portion stating the Finance Council advised a 5-year plan including upgrade in ventilation of boys' bathroom/locker room
- e. Crisis Plan presented by Paul Pedersen
  - i. Administration, counselors, key players met in August
  - ii. Formulation of exit plans and strategies to include Regis Middle, High, and Child Development Center executing these strategies simultaneously
  - iii. ECPD gave best ways to utilize recommendations to increase safety
  - iv. ECPD sent Administration information to review for the next meeting on September 26
  - v. Vital to teach all the plans via good communication
- f. Enrollment Report presented by Mark Gobler  
Handout: 2016-2017 Enrollment Data
  - i. RCS KG Enrollment down as is ECASD KG Enrollment
  - ii. Rev. Derek Sakowski's helpful research on baptismal rates which shows a 2-year bump and then a return to decreasing numbers was highlighted
  - iii. Rev. Derek Sakowski's goal is to translate marketing materials into Spanish which Mark Gobler stated needs to be approached very aggressively by the end of the calendar year
  - iv. Mark Gobler commented that concentration on recruiting 4K is important including offering discounted KG tuition as well as adding an RCS Preschool to Immaculate Conception
  - v. St. Mary's Parish sent a mailing to new families in Altoona offering free tuition for a new student
  - vi. Mark Gobler reminded the group that under state law, cap of enrollment for Choice goes from 1% to 2% next year
- V. Building Reports
  - a. RCDC/GCDC: nothing to report

- b. St. Mary's presented by Carisa Smiskey
  - i. Student Transit issues for 4K have been resolved
  - ii. Rev. Derek Sakowski in the classrooms
  - iii. K-3 visiting the Pumpkin Patch
  - iv. S.T.E.M. Shuttle visit for grades 4 and 5
  
- c. St. James presented by Kelly K. Mechelke
  - i. Building community with new staff
  - ii. 118 elementary students, 35 preschool students, many new families
  - iii. Joining St. Mary's for S.T.E.M. Shuttle visit
  
- d. Immaculate Conception presented by Renee Cassidy
  - i. 5 new students, 1 from India
  - ii. School Counselor, very part-time at the moment with new baby
  - iii. Teddy Joas resigned, recruited by Locust Lane; Karyn Steines and Ruth McHorney job-sharing Teddy Joas vacated position; arrangement received well by parents
  - iv. Discussion regarding teacher shortage in public and private schools ensued
  
- e. RMS/RHS presented by Paul Pedersen
  - i. Hired on many new staff including band instructor, physics teacher, administrative assistants, counselor, campus minister
  - ii. Junior and Senior retreats upcoming via Net Ministries

Misc:

Handout: RCS Education Commission Meeting Dates for 2016-2017: next meeting takes place Thursday, October 20, 2016

Closing Prayer by Very Rev. Don Meuret at 6:06 p.m.

Adjournment by Patty Usher at 6:06 p.m.