

Regis Catholic Schools  
Education Commission Meeting Minutes  
December 3, 2019  
(Previously scheduled for November 21)  
Regis Room 107, 4:15 p.m.

Present: Fr. Sakowski, Fr. Sedlacek, Fr. Kurzynski, Mark Gobler, Eric Nelson, Paul Pedersen, Kelly Mechelke, Carisa Smiskey, Meghan Kulig, Gayle Flaig, Renee Cassidy, Jackie Lutz, Linda Marx, Kayla Bahnb, Bill Spangler, Becky Alexander, Brian Hoeschen, Reid Sollberger, Sandy Makuck (recorder)

Absent: Fr. Oudenhoven, Fr. Krieg, Fr. Tadathil, Linda Schultz

- I. Meeting called to order – Reid Sollberger 4:16 p.m.  
Opening Prayer, Fr. Sakowski  
A correction to Carisa Smiskey’s name was made to the September minutes.  
Minutes from September were approved by Linda Marx and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fr. Kurzynski
- II. Standing Committee  
No reports for Catholic Identity or School Life. Please see the report Linda Schultz sent through email.
- III. Central Office Reports  
Accreditation – Renee Cassidy gave the following report. She started out by thanking all the committee members for all their hard work. It is a lot of extra work and they worked very hard. Renee Cassidy handed out a report that showed Domains A-D and Benchmarks 1-13 and a WRISA Accreditation update that is in The Rambler Report on page 33. All bench marks had to be put Online. We were the first school the WRISA did this to. On October 28 & 29 two lead people from WRISA did a pre-visit of what to expect when accreditation team visits. In November Regis hosted the WRISA and they met with staff, parents, and principals. They were impressed with our evidence and agreed we are a strong system with numerous accolades. We have two things to complete by March 3 in Domain D 1. Operations and 2. Central Office personnel file check list. Mark Gobler added team wanted to know dates of interviews and that it will be covered from now on. WRISA will be coming back on March 3 to make sure these are completed. In June a report comes out and they will inform DPI. Jackie Lutz will be taking over the September report.  
  
Controller – Eric Nelson introduced himself and said he has been in the central office as the controller for about three weeks now. He taught at the Middle and High School at Regis. He showed a report that showed extra revenue using a percentage increase and a flat rate increase in tuition. This report does not include choice students. Linda Marx questioned this is an estimated extra in revenue? Concerned about losing families? Mark Gobler indicated there is assistance available to families and he feels we can cover additional increase if families apply for the assistance. St. Benedicts Assistance available is \$100,000 and anonymous Foundation assistance. Fr. Kurzynski was concerned with families that have more than one child and he

was also concerned about the impact this will have on the Parishes when tuition is raised. Kelly Mechelke mentioned when a \$400 increase in tuition if broken down month to month doesn't seem so much as saying a \$400 increase, so if we are careful on how we communicate this to families. Meghan Kulig added if we explain the reason for the increase in tuition. To meet our long range goals, to keep our teacher salaries competitive. Becky Alexander brought up a question if families will have information about deficit? Will families think my money was mismanaged? Kelly Mechelke said if we show the increase over time and that we are implementing new procedures. Fr. Sakowski said to please email him with your concerns and recommendations to him. This is time sensitive information and we need to finalize tuition soon for Meghan Kulig to get out to families. Meghan Kulig indicated the Kindergarten preview is in January, so by early January she has to get the information ready. Mark Gobler indicated all seven systems are increasing tuition. Don't see a dramatic increase in choice students. If we can get families to start in the system early they seem to stay, rather than if they join in 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade only stay a year or so. If we are careful on how we present this to families or contact families and let them know assistant is available. Reid Sollberger advised we should take a vote to raise tuition. All, but one, were in favor of recommending raising tuition and they will email Fr. Sakowski with his concerns.

Communication/Auction – Meghan Kulig handed out a report for the 2019 Regis Catholic Schools Auction. She indicated it was a very successful year. Attendance was slightly down, but was good because it wasn't as crowded as years past. This year the Fund-a-need was the highest increase of all the years. Replacing elementary computers which are here and ready to be installed, and also helped Teachers Master's Program. All set for next year, the date is November 7 at the Florian Gardens.

Enrollment Coordinator interview/hire – Mark Gobler gave the following report. Hired Andrew Groniak who has two master degrees, and worked as an assistant football coach. He will start next Monday.

Central Office Supervisor – Kelly Mechelke gave the following report. At central office we are restructuring all job descriptions and looking at way that our people are very effective. She indicated there is really good energy at central office and with the people on the Management Committee and she really has a good feeling.

#### IV. Old Business

Family Referral Program - Mark Gobler gave the following report. Family referral program information will be in with Christmas programs. McDonnell said it was a success. Their business manager, Teresa Dachel, indicated we shouldn't have included KG – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. Should be just did a flat rate. If you refer a new family you will get \$500, not including PK and KG.

Parent Ambassadors – Kelly Mechelke gave the following report. Parent Ambassador Program will be current parents in the system welcoming new families coming in to Regis. Parent Ambassadors serve as representatives of the school to welcome new families and encourage

them to become active volunteers within the school. Making families feel connected and want to stay with Regis. Brochure will be in Christmas Programs.

Meghan Kulig indicated it will be two sided with Family Referral information on one side and Parent Ambassador Program on the other side.

Enrollment Update - Mark Gobler handed out the 2019-20 enrollment report and gave the following report. High School numbers are up. Elementary is down a bit. The two third grade classes are a concern.

Theft Investigation - Mark Gobler gave the following report. Most people appreciated the honesty of coming out with it in a very quick manner. It's been a month and a ½ investigation. Mark asked the investigator for an update on the investigation. The investigator told him they need more time and information. Fr. Sakowski did indicated this is still an ongoing investigation and we really can't say too much about the situation.

Hoelt Builders – Mark Gobler gave the following report. Hoelt Builders will be giving us a long range needs assessment on our current buildings and what we need to budget for in the future. Mark will share report at the next meeting. The Elementary buildings are under the Parish.

V. New Business

Management Team – Fr. Sakowski gave the following report. The purpose of this team is to receive regular counsel from them regarding decisions being made and if we are taking the right course. This was a recommendation by our third-party investigation. This team will report to the Finance Council. Members are Sue Ellen Kowieski, Mike Buck, and Kristina Bourget.

Regis Incident – Paul Pedersen gave his report of the time line of the incident. Communication piece was the most frustrating. Several members of commission questioned maybe the police should have given a statement to Regis. If they feel safe sending this student home with the parents, give Regis parents some peace of mind. Mark Gobler commended Paul Pedersen for handling the internal threat so quickly and efficiently. Mark also mentioned how well Ashley Wolterstorff handling the multiple phone calls coming in.

President Search – Fr. Sakowski indicated if you are interested in being on the team that hires the next president to please let him know.

VI. Moved to closed session at 6:01 p.m.

Sandy Makuck (recorder)