

Regis Catholic Schools
Education Commission Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2019
Regis Room 107 5:00 p.m.

~~There~~ corrections made
by Sandy -
refer to
June for
corrected copy

Present: Fr. Sedlacek, Fr. Francis, Fr. James, Fr. Krieg, Mark Gobler, Tom Reichenbacher, Linda Marx, Brian Hoeschen, Reid Sollberger, Bill Spangler, Becky Alexander, Jackie Lutz, Renee Cassidy, Carisa Smiskey, Paul Pedersen, Linda Shultz, Kelly Mechelke, Kelly Hughes, Meghan Kulig, Gayle Flaig, Sandy Makuck (recorder)

Absent: Fr. Jazdewski, Fr. Kurzynski, Fr. Sakowski, Fr. Oudenhoven, Fr. Thadathil

- I. Meeting Called to order Reid Sollberger, 5:00 p.m.
Opening Prayer from Fr. Sedlacek
Minutes from March had a correction from Becky Alexander under III. Scout Request, third paragraph contract be changed to contradict. Minutes were approved by Linda Schultz, and 2nd Fr. Sedlacek.

II. Standing Committee

Teaching and Learning: Report was sent

Catholic Identity – Becky Alexander gave the below report:

Kristin Hughes attended NCEA – Among the sessions she attended was one on service hour requirements for students and discovered there is an app available that can make the whole process of keeping track of students' service hours much easier.

In response to some confusion and questions that non-Catholic teachers have about mass, Kristin requested that at new teacher training or at another time there be a training session for non-Catholic teachers about the mass.

Immaculee's visit and talk went very well.

Summer Faith related activities for the students include: Adventure camp, Stubenville, Kristine has dates set up for students to help with the community table 3 times throughout the summer.

Kids Against Hunger went well.

May Crowning was held at the beginning of the month.

Walk For Virtues began with a mass this year.

The RFC held a fundraiser and took in \$1,500 to help with campus ministry.

The Lent Penance services went very well.

The Shadow Stations of the Cross put on by the drama students were very impressive.

The Theology Curriculum writing process which Paul has been a part of is complete. Paul will travel to La Crosse in July to present it to Bishop Callaghan for approval.

The committee has been focusing on an article titled "Five Essential Marks of Catholic Schools"

At their meeting on Tuesday, they discussed the mark title "Sustained by Gospel Witness" this mark emphasizes the importance of a Catholic School hiring educators who are practicing Catholics. The committee brainstormed ways which we can attract and hire more Catholic teachers which include:

1. Try to get some of the teaching Dominican Sisters of St. Cecelia to come here. -High Demand. 2. Set up a scholarship or endowment to pay for part of the college expenses for Catholic education majors. In return, they would commit to teaching at Regis for a certain period of time. 3. Establish a student teacher program with strong Catholic Colleges. Also Fr. Sedlacek would like to support current teachers to live out their faith by offering spiritual retreats for them.

School Life – Didn't meet

III. Guests

Tom Reichenbacher – Superintendent of Diocesan Schools

Kayla Bahnbub – New Immaculate Conception Principal. Stopped in to say Hi and how excited she is to be back at Regis. She was with Regis for eight years and then went to McDonald. Fr. James added he is glad she is back with Regis she has a very good work ethic. She couldn't stay because of a commitment with McDonald that evening.

Judine Brey, Regis Fine Arts Director, said they finished the year in the black. She indicated "The Miracle Worker" lost money. Production companies charge different groups different amounts.

Performances went very well, but it was very warm in auditorium. Two other shows made money: The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, even with having to cancel one performance due to weather, and The Magician's Nephew.

Middle school Drama Camp is open to any Regis Catholic Schools student entering grades 6-8. It will run for two weeks July 8-18.

Future events: June – The Taming of the Shrew; Fall/Winter – Christmas Carol; Spring – Narnia

Fr. Sedlacek said he really appreciates all of Judine's hard work. Reid Sollberger asked if there were any non-Regis students involved, Judith advised about 10 non-Regis students involved. There are a lot of positions that need to be filled: Technicians, Director, Assistant Director, Stage Hands, Lights, Sounds, etc. They try to get Regis High School Students to fill these positions, but there are times she is doing multiple position while trying to Direct at the same time. Fr. James advised he really enjoyed being in one of the shows and Judith said "it was a big draw for him to be in the show".

IV. Central Office Reports

Communication – Meghan Kulig advised she has been doing a lot on social media - it's free. She has been spotlighting 2019 Graduates. Meghan wants to get kindergarten advice to Graduating Seniors. She is trying to push out as much positive communication as she can. Meghan is working on putting together a Regis Catholic Schools Guide for incoming parents.

Athletic Update – Immediate transition to new site over summer.

Enrollment update – Mark Gobler said numbers are looking very close to the same as last year.

Principals are working on calling the families who haven't enrolled as of yet, since the enrollment fee increases. There are 23 students who are withdrawing most of them because of moving. We have 18 new Students enrolling. New Choice Families are at 52, with a family of 8 as one of them. Increase of Hispanic students. Is there a need to hire Hispanics, fluent in Spanish? Renee added what she has seen is all Spanish students speak fluent English and they are translating for parents. This is the third year of having ½ price tuition for Kindergarten families. Think about going from 50% to 40% but not this year.

V. Old Business

Mark Gobler – Meeting dates for next year need approval. Fr. James asked if the meeting dates could be put on the school calendar? Meghan Kulig will put meetings on school calendar. Meeting dates are being passed around with Fathers. Fr. Sedlacek was concerned about the August 15 meeting date being a holy day. Everyone will look at dates and will approve at June meeting.

Snow Days/Still have School - If buses call off school, do we still have school? Suing issues arise, concern with High School Students driving in dangerous situations. Proposal of Virtual Learning – possible for students in 6th through 12th each student has own device, not the case in elementary setting. Will this meet DPI Standards? A point came up that we live in a snowy area make it clear that this is not mandatory but instruction is available. If school is offered do hours count? Is good instruction being taught with not every student there? Do a survey for families if they would like this option? Get a general consensus, if they have a strong feeling or not. Mark Gobler indicated this would not be happening this next year but possible in the future. Superintendent, Tom Reichenbacher, indicated reason virtual learning is not being utilized is Choice Schools cannot by law do this. Would start with Commission members; talk with Insurance Company, Catholic Mutual. Parent Rep, Linda Marx asked offer child care only when school is closed, charge tuition. Gayle Flaig indicated they only had to close three times this past winter. Attendance is lower and they are only a few older children there. Families are trained that if Eau Claire closes Regis is closed too. If School is closed offer the school as a “safe place” for families to drop off their children. We would have to provide food service. Indoor Sports center is capped at a certain number of kids. Could survey parents if there is an interest? Would they pre-register? Could we offer a stipend or personal day for teachers, could they choose? Teachers have a signed contract for snow days so we can’t require them to come on a snow day.

Paul Pedersen - Community Service opportunities for Regis MS/HS. Required Community Service in the High School is 25 hours with 5 or more hours in Parrish and 10 hours at the middle school level. They encourage students to do more than 5 hours community service at their parish. Really believe in what Regis is all about “Live a life of service of the King, love and serve others”. They give students options or rewards for community service. If a student has a study hall 1st hour they can sleep in or if they have a study hall 8th hour can leave early. Keeping track of service hours, there is an app, but there is an expense. Is it worth it?? Can we use skyward to keep track already using skyward might be a benefit.

VI. New Business

Reid Sollberger - Motion to convene to closed session 6:09 p.m.

Reid Sollberger – Motion to reconvene to open session 6:33 p.m.

VII. School Reports

Renee Cassidy said Walk For Virtues raised about \$46,000 with all three elementary schools. Everyone seemed to enjoy that Mass was first. After the walk students did fun projects or community service projects.

Gayle Flaig – Immaculate Conception will have a before and after care for this next school year and enrollment is looking good.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Sedlacek

Meeting Adjourned at 6:35

Next Meeting is June 13

Submitted by Sandy Makuck