



**Regis Catholic Schools
Education Commission Meeting
Thursday, February 18, 2021
5:00 p.m.
Virtual WebEx Meeting**

Present: Fr. Sakwoski, Jacki Lutz, Linda Schultz, Kelly Mechelke, Kayla Bahnub, Carisa Smiskey, Paul Pedersen, Linda Marx, Fr. Kieffer, Brian Hoeschen, Fr. James Kurzynski, Meghan Kulig, Ashley Wolterstorff (minutes)

Absent: Gayle Flaig, Mark Golden, Fr. Jazdzewski, Fr. Krieg, Eric Nelson, Fr. Oudenhoven, Bill Spangler, Fr. Thadathil

- I. The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm.
- II. Fr. James gave the opening prayer.
- III. Discuss/Consider Approval of Minutes of the November 2020 Commission Meeting
 - a. Linda Marx made motion to approve minutes. Brian Hoeschen second the motion. November minutes approved.
- IV. Reports
 - a. Central Office
 - i. Enrollment (Kelly Mechelke/Andy Gorniak) – Current enrollment is at 770, which is down three since beginning of the school year. Next year’s enrollment is at 514, which is a little higher than in past years.
 1. One possible reason for the high enrollment numbers is that people know there is a waiting list and that spacing in the classroom might be needed, so they are enrolling earlier.
 2. Kelly is meeting with the Health Department to come up with guidelines for next year.
 3. Andy Gorniak gave his two-week notice. He will be done as of Feb 25. Ashley Wolterstorff will start February 26.
 - ii. Human Resources (Kelly Mechelke/Jen Eager)
 1. LOI’s were sent out and are due back the end of February. Contracts will then be done for next year after LOI’s are turned in.
 2. A new salary scale is being put together. Jen and Eric are working with Finance Committee to see if we can sustain raises for our teachers going forward.
 - iii. Advancement (Kelly Mechelke/Mark Golden) – Third annual Regis Fund is getting sent out soon. Corrections and additions to scholarship book are being worked on. As of January 18, the trophy case at the high school was completed.

A social media write-up on the demolition of St. Patrick's school was created. A new brochure for the Legacy Society is being worked on. Mark is attending Webex seminars on fundraising and capital campaigns.

- iv. Finance (Kelly Mechelke/Eric Nelson) – Eric is working on getting the budget sent to the Diocese for approval. He is also working hard with Jen to clean up past errors and correct wrongs from the past.

V. Committees

- a. Teaching and Learning Committee Report was sent out by Linda Schultz. There were no questions on that report.
- b. Catholic Identity met on January 26.
 - i. They are working on music play list for athletics and are hoping to have something implemented by next fall.
 - ii. The Committee is working on a list of parish adoration times since adoration can't be held in the Chapel anymore. Tina Morning will try to have something compiled in the next week.
 - iii. There is a desire by some on the Committee to have more student representation to help seek out the input of students. The Committee members also want to looking closer at what the Committee's purpose and mission is.
 - 1. Catholic Identity at the elementary schools might need more attention in future, instead of just focusing on middle and high school campus.
 - 2. Staff members or parents of elementary students might be beneficial on Committee.
 - a. A discussion was held on the possibility of creating a sub-committee to help evaluate the current committee and to see how the purpose of Catholic Identity can be better served. There is also a desire to get the right people on the Committee.
 - b. The main accomplishments of the Catholic Identity Committee include: seeing what kind of songs are played at sporting events at the high school level, Mom's Prayer group, put bible verses in each locker, trying to find ways to encourage ways to live their faith.
 - c. Nothing was decided about whether or not to add a sub-committee or not.

VI. New Business

- a. Prom and Graduation (Paul Pedersen)
 - i. Prom-Working with Health Department to see how we could safely hold a prom. The school will try to disengage if prom will be hosted privately.
 - ii. Graduation – Would like to use a raised stage for Baccalaureate Mass and graduation ceremony on the field. Four family members per student might be a reasonable number.
 - 1. If it rains, then all students and the ceremony would be held in gym and auditorium. Students would sit on the floor of gym. Two family members could go into gym. The other two family members would go into the auditorium to watch ceremony via livestream.

2. Holding a ceremony similar to last year's might also be an option, but students want to be together.
- iii. 8th grade promotion – Each student could bring 2 family members and the ceremony could be held in the auditorium. The spacing works out.
- b. Commission Members Orientation (Paul Pedersen, Fr. Kurzynski, Kelly Mechelke)
 - i. A sample Orientation binder was created to explain purpose of roles of Commission Members.
 1. Topics in the binder include: school calendar, meeting dates, organizational structure of school and Diocese to understand how being on the Commission fits in the larger picture, by-laws, roles of members, accreditation, RCS core values, administrative plan, academic and career planning guides, senior surveys, and other information that would help new members orientate.
 2. Paul could go through binder with each new member to answer questions. He could also give tours of each school.
 3. The RCS Commission is not a school board. It is not a group to bring up personally motivated parental concerns.
 4. This binder could help explain the chain of command and the proper order to handle various concerns.
 - a. The Committee had positive feedback on the binder and several members expressed their approval.
- c. Ad hoc for Religious Catholic Identity (Becky Alexander/Kelly Mechelke)
 - i. An ad hoc committee is already created for Catholic Identity. But sometimes when ideas are created, there is no follow through because there are not enough people to carry through on things. Another group of people to finish ideas might be helpful.
 1. There could be a group of parents and staff to help get things done and follow-through. Another thought was to give power to the Catholic Identity members to get the work done and keep notes of what the status of projects is. A discussion of the purpose of the Committee might help define this.
 2. No decision was made on the ad hoc committee for the Catholic Identity group.
- d. COVID Update
 - i. Megan Kulig -Virtual tours for schools were created for each of our buildings. Kindergarten and pre-school landing pages were also created. Ads in CV Family, on social media, on WEAU and WQOW are also in place. The Rambler Report will feature Anna Allen, who will be highlighted for her work holding thrift sales to benefit St. Jude's Children's Hospital.
 - ii. Kelly Mechelke-Meetings with the Health Department are taking place weekly or bi-weekly. COVID numbers in Eau Claire going down because we are not out of the woods. Social distancing, masking, and hand washing should continue to be stressed. Gatherings of any type should be discussed with the Health Department so they can share advice and tips on how to stay safe.
 - iii. Kelly and Paul will be attending a meeting tomorrow with the Health Department regarding prom and graduation will be held.

VII. Closing Prayer – Fr. Kieffer gave the closing prayer

VIII. Meeting Adjourned at 5:53 pm

Regis Catholic Schools is dedicated to educating students of all faiths in a Catholic,
Christ-centered environment.
We are united by Our Core Values of *Living* Faith, *Accepting* Responsibility, *Promoting* Teamwork,
Achieving Excellence, and *Inspiring* Leadership.