

Regis Catholic Schools
Education Commission Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2019
Regis Room 107 5:00pm

Present: Fr. Sakowski; Fr. Oudenhoven, Fr. Thadathil, Fr. Krieg, Fr. Sedlacek, Reid Sollberger, Becky Alexander, Linda Marx, Brian Hoeschen, Bill Spangler, Meghan Kulig, Renee Cassidy, Carisa Smiskey, Jackie Lutz, Paul Pedersen, Mark Gobler (recorder)

Absent: Fr. Jazdzewski, Fr. Kurzynski, Linda Schultz, Kelly Mechelke,

- I. Meeting called to order by Reid Sollberger, 5:00 pm
Opening Prayer from Fr. Sedlacek
Minutes from the January meeting were approved

II. Standing Committees

Teaching and Learning: Carisa Smiskey gave the report which highlighted the notes from Linda Schultz. Topics included Mental Health, Curriculum, Academic Planning.

Becky Alexander asked for clarification on the one to one staff to student.

Carisa explained that the staff member would be an advisor for the same student throughout their educational journey either in Middle or High School.

No Report from the other committees

III. Scout request: Bill Spangler requested consideration for RCS to be the charter sponsor for a Scout Troop for girls. He had with him Cubmaster Spencer Lewis, and three Immaculate Conception students (Sylvia Spangler, Lilly Lewis, Bella Borton) and that are at the age limit to be a Cub Scout. The girls recited the Cub Oath and pledge. Bill Spangler noted that while the organization formally known as Boy Scouts of America now is called "Scouts". They do allow females to join but the local chapter has not endorsed girls with boys in a troop. Thus they would form their own troop for just girls and would like RCS to be a troop because the six girls currently interested will be students at RMS.

Bill went over the requirements from RCS if this were to happen. First of all to select adults to lead, secondly to provide a safe meeting place and lastly be of assistance to recruit. There would be no financial burden on RCS since it is the obligation of the girls to be self reliant. He did go into the merits of the program and how it blends in nicely with the Core Values that we have at RCS. He placed emphasis that it would be a Catholic troop with a goal to achieve the Pope Paul II award each year.

His presentation had fostered many questions from the members of the Commission.

Linda Marx inquired if girls could join at an older age, the answer was yes

Brian Hoeschen asked if it competed for girls with the Girl and Heritage Scouts, Bill said it did but each organization has its own appeal.

Becky Alexander said that some of these organizations have affiliations with organizations like Planned Parenthood which contradict the teachings of the Church. Bill said some of the

positions of the national organization concern him too, but reiterated that they would be a Catholic troop and if it ever came for them to be required by the national or district organization the troop would be dispersed.

Fr. Sakowski referred to the national organization's website which dances around issues about gender, etc. He also inquired if signing the charter obligated us to follow their directives. Bill responded that this troop would follow the Church's values.

Fr. Sakowski stated there is no reason not to sign it but worries about the organization's changing policies.

Reid asked if the charter had to be signed on an annual basis, Bill responded yes.

Fr. Odenhoven inquired if it would be open to non RCS students to which Bill responded yes.

Fr. Sakowski asked how do we respond to families that are currently involved with Girl Scouts and Heritage Girls. Bill said that he and Spencer Lewis would respond to those questions.

Linda reported that once Heritage Girls asked to put in flyers in the student's take home folders and the school said no. Bill said that the Cub Scouts have had good relations with that group.

Meghan Kulig asked if adult female supervision was required. Bill said that there needs to be two adults at each meeting and that one needs to be female.

Fr. Sedlacek asked would would be required from RCS, Bill went over the requirements.

Brian Hoeschen asked what would be the difference between the current IC sponsorship and RCS. Bill said there might not be the support from the current old Boy Scout troop, also both would be fund raising and that might be confusing that there would be two separate groups.

The girls are at age for middle school and they would be in a familiar environment.

Meghan Kulig asked if there were any other girl only troops, Bill said he knew that Meadowview had girls in the Cub Scouts but didn't know if they would be going to have their own Scout troop.

Reid asked Mark Gobler if this was discussed before and he replied that Bill met with Paul Pedersen and him earlier and was told that this would be a topic for the Commission.

Fr. Oudenhoven asked when they planned to start. Bill said ASAP.

Linda Marx asked if they considered other organizations and Bill replied that Scouts made the most sense for the current group.

Renee Cassidy said that this is a wonderful opportunity to keep kids engaged.

Carisa Smiskey was concerned that this could open the door for groups that might not be considered to subscribe to our standards. Mark replied since we are private that we have the discretion who to approve. Fr. Odenhoven said we do have the right to deny but it might cause a problem.

Bill was asked if there were other girls at RCS interested and he said that there were some siblings of the current proposed troop.

Fr. Thadatill said that Immaculate Conception does not have a concern with their sponsorship of the current organizations that they charter.

Reid asked for a recommendation for approval from the Commission
10 in support 4 abstained.

III. Central Office Reports

Communications: Meghan passed out the Senior Survey and asked for any input. She said that we are locked into the number of questions but can change the content within the survey framework. Many people referenced the questions with the impact on faith. After much discussion Meghan will make the recommended changes and present to the next Commission.

Advancement: Mark gave Bill Uelmen's report. It is attached.

Enrollment: See the count with the attachment. It is nothing unusual for this time of year.

IV. Old Business

2019-20 Calendar: Mark mentioned that next year May 22 is going to be a "swing day", meaning if we do not have many weather closures that will be a day off. Parents will be informed by the end of April.

Regis MS/HS Course Selection Process: Paul went into details of how the class selection process has transpired in his building. I much improved course catalog with more information for the parents and students. There was an long explanation of the impact of what classes the students take and the building of the Master Schedule which in turns determines the manpower to instruct those classes. It is a complicated process but this year has been streamlined and deemed more efficient. Hopefully the number of students requesting schedule changes at the beginning of next school year will greatly diminish.

Mental Health Parent Advocacy: As part of the DOJ Safety Grant Pam Foegen and Paul Pedersen will be working with Sharon Besterfeldt, a mental health expert to form a group which will be ready to meet starting with the 2019-20 academic year.

Strategic Plan: Father Sakowski thanked the members of the committee that put in the time to implement the Strategic Plan for 2019-20. Meghan did have copies of the current plan so people could compare the adjustments. Brian Hoeschen commented that it looked like 60-70% of the document was changed. Father Sakowski noted that the 2013 plan had many successes and now that new challenges existed.

Legislator Visits: Mark reported that five of the area legislators visited and that each of our schools were visited at least once. These were positive and they appreciated learning more about RCS.

New Business:

IC Principal Process: Interviews will take place on Tuesday March 26. There are 6-7 candidates that will be interviewed by two committees, one made up of parents and teachers (stakeholders) and an administrative group comprising of Fr. Sakowski, Mark, Carisa Smiskey, and Kelly Mechelke.

Make up Days 2018-19: Mark reported that he is still waiting for the hours of instruction calculator from the DPI but his hand calculated total indicates that we are set for the rest of the year. The principals then reported who they added minutes to the current schools days to assist in meeting the DPI requirement.

Meeting Days for 2019-20: There has been a lower percentage of attendance this year at meetings. With less meeting days do we need to go back to meeting more often so that everyone stays connected. It was determined to keep the status quo.

Reschedule the June 20th meeting: Since the clergy will not be available that day other dates were looked at the the last meeting of the 2019-20 year. It was determined that June 18 would be implemented.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Sedlacek

Meeting adjourned

Next meeting is May 16

Submitted by Mark Gobler