

**Regis Catholic Schools  
Education Commission Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, November 19, 2015  
Regis Room 107, 5:00pm**

**Present:**

Becky Alexander	Pat Lange	Rev. Derek Sakowski
Renee Cassidy	Linda Marx	Reid Sollberger
Rev. Alan Guanella	Kelly K. Mechelke	Patty Usher
Rev. Paul Hoffman	Very Rev. Don Meuret	
Val Knobloch	Rev. Dan Oudenhoven	
Rev. Tom Krieg	Paul Pedersen	

**Absent:**

Gayle Flaig	Meghan Kulig	Carisa Smiskey
Mark Gobler	Tanya Schmitz	Rev. George Thayikuzhithottu
		Bill Uelmen

Minutes: Kelly K. Mechelke and Renee Cassidy with Rev. Derek Sakowski

**I. Opening**

Call to Order 5:01: Patty Usher

Opening Prayer: Rev. Alan Guanella

Rest in Peace Father Klink. He died this morning. From Father Don Meuret

October Minutes accepted with the following changes: Under New Business IV a. V not "COEP" anymore it is "Tuition Partnership." And VI d. It should read "International Priest", not Pastor.

**II. Standing Committees**

- a. No Governance Report
- b. School Life was given by Pat Lange. Three people are on her committee. She opened up with wondering if School Life should over-see all other Co-curricular groups, such as HS and MS booster clubs. Discussion ensued and we came to the conclusion that it would be helpful. Father Don also commented to touch base with Development as to not step on their asking toes when we are reaching out for donations and fundraising as well. We would like to see a calendar of fundraising so we can maximize our best times to solicit as to not over lap and over burden families.
- c. Teaching and Learning was given by Val Knobloch. A group got together to work on drafting a proposal for Policy and Procedures for curriculum.
- d. Catholic Identity and Mission Integration report given by Becky Alexander. They met and discussed campus youth position and pornography issues. They want to work on pure and chaste hearts and have a purity and chastity speaker come. Also a judge to meet with student to talk about legal position if students to engage in sending or receiving pornography. They would like to have a budget in the future for speakers. They discussed the hallways having more of a Catholic Identity reflection for Homecoming. They would like to have a Faith Booster Club. The committee wanted our thoughts about this. Take field trips yearly, raise money, faith lived. Catholic Identity committee looks at what we do and display, Faith Booster club would be doing activities and raising funds. Patty Usher commented the challenge would be to organize and launch. It was stated that Casa Hogar would be a great mission trip. It was decided to work on efforts to organize and launch this and report back. Father Tom Krieg commented that the Bishops statement on pornography that was just released two days ago may be helpful.

**III. Old Business**

- a. Veteran's Day Recap report was given by Patty Usher. She extended recognition and congratulations to Regis MS/HS and Eric Nelson for his hard work and delivery. She also included Paul Pedersen and Meghan Kulig in their efforts to make this a success and the coverage. She commended Bill Uelmen for

working with the Fedie family to bring attention to Michael Fedie. This was Regis MS/HS's first time having a Veteran's Day celebration since 1978. She concluded with commenting that the elementary schools did a beautiful job as usual.

- b. Drawn to the Word was reported by Kelly K. Mechelke. Paul Oman will paint and tell a story at Saint Mary's elementary at 1:00 p.m. on Dec. 14. The painting will be displayed at Saint Mary's Elementary. Mr. Oman will paint a picture at Regis Auditorium Dec. 14 at 7:00 p.m. That painting will be displayed at Saint James after that evening.
- c. Auditorium Seats report was given by Paul Pedersen. We have sold 336 seats. We have 204 left to be sold. We have \$61,000 and need \$69,000. Extra money will be used to put in carpeting and lighting. We will use carpet squares so we can replace squares if needed in spots in the future, which saves money then. Dec. 15 remaining seats will be taken out. Dec. 17 new seats will arrive. Father Don Meuret asked if anything was going to be done with the holes that are not covered up from the removal of the old chairs. Paul Pederson commented, not to his understanding. Discussion ensued and it was strongly voiced that something should be done. We need to do this well. Maybe a polyurethane finish was suggested by Renee Cassidy. Father Guanella commented that he is not putting a time constraint on this project and he can have Mass anywhere. The project should be done well and not rushed.

#### IV. New Business

- a. WIAA Girls Golf Co-op with Altoona
  - a. We have a very small golf team. We must have 5 to make a team. We have 3 or 4. Altoona has small amount as well.
- b. UW Health Physical Proposal
  - a. They want to partner with us to offer physicals for our Athletes on site for \$10.00.  
(Minutes to this point via Kelly K. Mechelke)
- c. Building Use Agreements (Minutes this portion via Rev. Derek Sakowski)
  - a. Father Sakowski offered a history of Building Use Agreements, and summarized the new proposal, which has the backing of the pastors and Mark Gobler. Back in 1998, the area Catholic schools consolidated as C.A.S.E., and Don Novotny (director of the Catholic Schools office in La Crosse) helped identify a formula that would calculate the amount C.A.S.E. would pay each parish as reimbursement for the use of their building. The formula analyzed gas, electric, water, snow removal, refuse removal, snow removal, liability insurance, custodial costs, and maintenance costs. C.A.S.E. (later Regis Catholic Schools) paid a monthly estimate to each parish, and then the final bill was settled at the end of each fiscal year. By 2004, parishes and Regis found the process too labor-intensive and just settled upon a fixed dollar amount for each place - initially \$95,000 for Immaculate Conception, \$60,000 for St. James, \$34,000 for St. Mary's. The amounts were tweaked in 2011 and 2013, so that most recently the amounts were \$95,000 for IC, \$46,000 for St. James, and \$46,000 for St. Mary's. The biggest problem is that, over the long haul, having a fixed dollar amount did not leave any allowance for rising utilities costs or cost of living adjustments for custodial staff. Also, the agreement in 2013 was only meant to be a stopgap measure. Initially the diocese was talking about standardizing these agreements everywhere, but that idea proved impossible.
  - b. So Fr. Sakowski met three times this fall with a task force, as well as bringing their ideas to the Regis Finance Council and to the six supporting pastors. They realized that it would be impossible, at this point, to ask Regis for a full reimbursement of actual costs. But all parties would be happy if we could allow for inflation and for better long-range planning. In the end, Fr. Sakowski and the task force worked out an agreement that would look back at the previous 3 fiscal years to calculate a rolling average. The average would then be applied to the subsequent three fiscal years. The formula will make a reasonable estimate of actual utilities costs (with the average being re-adjusted every 3 fiscal years). Unlike the original agreements, Regis won't be asked to pay any portion of the liability insurance (since the parishes would have to pay for it whether or not Regis was using the building), and Regis will only be asked to pay 20% of snow removal costs (same rationale). But for custodial costs Regis will simply pay a set amount of \$50,000 to IC, and \$25,000 each to St. James and St. Mary's. Likewise, for maintenance and improvements will pay \$25,000 to IC and \$12,500 each to St. James and St. Mary's. This final \$50,000 will be taken from choice funds, so long as they are available. Every 3 years, the custodial fee and maintenance fee will be increased by 3% to allow for COLA/inflation costs. This proposal will result in Regis paying an added \$21,000 per year over the

next 3 years (not counting the choice funds). This amount could be covered by a modest increase to elementary tuition. The pastors and Mark Gobler are very much behind the proposal, especially because of the way it will allow for long-range planning.

(Minutes starting here via Kelly K. Mechelke)

d. Parent Night Review

- a. Renee Cassidy reported that she made a Power Point. There were 23 people there. She presented on the Evaluation tool, Charlotte Danielson Model that Regis piloted the last two years. Renee is on the Diocesan committee that works on Teacher Evaluations.

V. RCS Administration Reports

- a. St. Mary's/St. James/ Curriculum was given by Kelly K. Mechelke. Both Saint James and Saint Mary's will have a Harvest Feast on Tuesday, Nov. 23. The office at Saint Mary's was filled with food and students will be picked out of a bucket to put a pie in Carisa Smiskey's face during this feast. Christmas programs are scheduled at Saint James on Dec. 14 and Jan. 7 for Saint Mary's. Saint James is doing Catholic Outreach for their Christmas service project. Saint Mary's are doing it more with classes. Will report that in January. Three year old preschool will start another section in January at Saint James. We have a Santa's Workshop on Dec. 10. Google Docs training will be at Saint James on Dec. 8 and at Saint Mary's on Dec. 10 both from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

(Minutes here to end via Renee Cassidy)

Reports:

St. Mary's:

- Kelly K. Mechelke reported that Carisa Smiskey had a contest to see how much food would be brought in and then she had a pie in the face.
- Paul Oman, artist, is coming soon to create a Marion portrait and the students will watch as he paints it in front of them.
- Google. Doc training is Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> for staff through CESA #10.
- The Christmas Program is January 7<sup>th</sup>.

St. James:

- Kelly K. Mechelke reported they are adding a section to 3K in January.
- Google.doc training is on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> through CESA #10.
- Christmas Program is Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>.

Teaching and Learning:

- The following staff created a new policy and procedures for this new curriculum committee: Kelly K. Mechelke, Father Sakowski, Jill Klotz, Kayla Bahnub, Mary Donnellan, Linda Schultz, Dori Fadness, Cheryl Hanson, and Nan Falbo.
- At the next Commission meeting Kelly K. Mechelke will bring the draft form of the new procedures and policy form. This will make curriculum choices more transparent and smooth.

Regis M/H:

- Middle School Christmas Concert is Dec. 14.
- Mid-quarters will be in December.
- Fall Sports are over and winter sports are beginning.
- The one act play goes to state in Milwaukee.
- December 5<sup>th</sup> is the Dinner Theater held at Regis.

- Former Regis grad, Brian Goldbeck, will speak to the students on December 10<sup>th</sup>. He earned a Political Science Degree and works for the US State Department. He has had numerous travels and posts in his career. His presentation will be how Regis prepared him for his career.
- Paul Pedersen, Principal, and Kendra Pagel, School Counselor, are working on course offers. Paul will meet with teachers to see what can be offered.
- Ellen Killian, Religion Teacher, earned a \$3000 grant from Gordy's Market and WEAU for the middle school field trips.

Regis/Genesis Child Development Centers:

- Gayle Flaig was attending national conference.

Immaculate Conception:

- The 8<sup>th</sup> annual Veterans Day program was a "packed house" with many veterans in attendance. The students learned the history of the Star Spangled Banner. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders did a skit with emphasis on the history of USA wars.
- Dominique Carlson, elementary art teacher, earned a \$500 grant from Sylvan Learning and WQOW. She is using it to teach the 4<sup>th</sup> graders how to make paper.
- Advent Projects for each grade have been chosen.
- The Scholastic Book Fair is ending on Friday and so far they have sold 300 books.
- Safe Environment Training for students is Dec. 2 with Officer Nicks presenting "NO, GO, TELL"
- The Christmas Program is December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Adjourned with prayer by Father Guanella.

6:32pm