

Sacred Heart Board of Academic and Religious Education

Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2015

Present: Chris W., Jane, Mary Jo, Andrea, Fr. Chris, Tara, Steph, Amy, Ann, Tom, Kyle, Chris K. and Fr. Luis

Visitors: Angela Lawler (H&S), Shondra Murphy (H&S and Preschool), Cari Higgins, Michelle Duer & Lisa Van Blair

I. Opening Prayer & Introductions

Chris W. called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

II. Visitor Comments and Reports

Both Preschool teachers report how much they are enjoying their new space this year. The construction was well worth it! Mrs. Duer spoke to how much she is enjoying the conduct of our middle school students, and the year is off to a great start. Mrs. Higgins repeated that sentiment. She has 21 ELL students this year, in addition to those she works with on various subjects providing extra support. She also shared information from a conference she attended early this year on effective teaching methods. These are things that will benefit any teacher at any grade level, and she has passed this information onto the staff as well.

III. Home and School Report

1st meeting complete and well attended! The year-end SCRIP report was shared. Overall the program is still performing, but the new chairs are working to build it back up to previous levels. H&S has added a new committee this year – Health & Wellness.

IV. Approval of February minutes

Chris K. moved and Tara seconded. Motion passed.

V. Administration & Financial Reports

A Middle School Science teacher was hired – Ms. Lindsey Ernst. She will be on an interim contract for the school year, due to the timing of when she was hired. Ms. Benson will continue to co-teach 8th grade Science.

Construction is nearing completion, with landscaping being completed. The new traffic flow seems to be going well so far as well. We know this is a 1st step in relieving congestion on Grand Ave., and more changes will be likely in the future.

Grades K-5 are making the change to the new Being a Writer curriculum. There will be continued training and support for the teachers. Middle School Math has also begun its switch to the Big Ideas curriculum. There has also been some changes to how advanced Middle School students will be taught, so they won't miss 8th grade math when skipping to algebra as 8th graders. The 3 years of middle school math instruction will be condensed into 2 years, so no concepts will be left

out, and they will be fully prepared for high school class placement. Ms. Benson will also begin co-teaching algebra with Mrs. Baker. Jane has drafted letters to be sent to the 6th grade parents and algebra parents to explain all of these changes.

There was some concern over the Financial reports, and this will be investigated further in the Executive meeting in October, so we can provide some explanation at next month's meeting.

VI. Executive Report

There will be a communication workshop held Nov. 2nd for all Board of Ed members, School Administration and Home & School Executive committee members. It will be led by Eileen Wixted from Wixted & Company, who will do this free of charge. Communication is a key priority for the Board this school year. We would also like to focus this year on ways to get our students more involved in liturgy, from readings to music. It was also mentioned that we could focus on the school website as part of our communication improvements. We hope to do some research into ways that will improve mobile usage plus making it more user-friendly.

VII. Adjournment

Chris W. motioned and Steph seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:39pm.

Next meeting – October 20th, 6:30pm.