

Sacred Heart Board of Academic and Religious Education

Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2017

Present: Amy Friedrich, Heather Strang, Ann Warren, Jill Kinnison, John Klein, Tom Rotherham, Jeff Winslow, Adrienne Branstad, Jay Smith, Leenie Rodriguez, Jane Kinney

Guests: Sue Bata, Jen Heaston, Kate Battani

Next meeting: September 19th at 6:30 p.m. Sacred Heart Parish Conference Room

I. Opening Prayer and Introduction of Guests

Amy called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Amy welcomed the members and the guests and lead the prayer.

II. Visitor Comments and Reports

- Sue Bata (Middle School) – Sue thanked the Home and School for the breakfast. She said the 8th graders are working on the school kick-off assembly. She said they are working on the four R's as leaders of the school. The 8th graders will also visit Camp Dodge soon. In American History, they are studying explorers through the Civil War. In 7th grade geography, they are learning about the Western hemisphere, some about China, and map skills. In Religion, they will be talking about Theology of the Body.
- Jen Heaston (Kindergarten) – Jen previously worked in the Sacred Heart Preschool. She's ready for the kids. She said they already had a kindergarten picnic that had a great turnout. She said they'll be working with the 'cap down' literacy program. The new sight words will be called 'heart words' where the students will be learning phonics, decoding, and rhyming.
- Kate Battani (5th grade) – Kate teaches Religion, Social Studies, and Language Arts. She also said that she'll be sitting in the dunk tank for the 8th grade fundraiser. In Religion, she is teaching Bible usage. She said that Mrs. Hunter using the Math Series for the second year. In Social Studies, they are learning about their heritage and explorers. In Language Arts, they are working with guided reading and small groups.

III. Home and School Report

Leenie told the Board that Home and School was happy to donate \$20,000 worth of laptops to the teachers. In all, there were 43 laptops purchased for all the teachers. Home and School also hosted a back to school lunch for staff. Home and School has a photo frame ready for kids to take a picture at school on the first day.

IV. Approval of Agenda and May Minutes

Amy moved to approve the minutes with changes. Jay seconded the approval of the May minutes. Motion passed.

V. Administration Report

Jane told the committee about the calendar changes for the 2017-2018 school year. She said that three years ago the state law changed to hours vs. days. The calendar has always been submitted to the diocese as well as the state. Currently, we were counting the time from the first bell at 7:45 a.m. to the last bell at 2:32 p.m. without counting lunch time. The state law, however, requires the time to be counted from the second bell at 7:55 a.m. to the first bell at 2:25 p.m. So, we are about twenty minutes short per day or about three days short per year. Several options were discussed and days have been added to the 2017-2018 school year. For future years, she is looking at several options including changing the February or October breaks, trying to get closer to the Diocesan schedule, or maybe extending the school day on Wednesdays when there are no busses. She hopes to have the schedule for next year figured out by November to give parents plenty of notice about any changes.

Jane also told the committee that she is hopeful that the new cameras will be added this year. Also, SHS enrollment is up this year. The numbers are exceeding last year's budget numbers. She said that 1st, 2nd, and 4th grades still have low class sizes.

Jane said that the staff is working on Mercy Matters. She said that Scott Ehlinger is working out really well. She said that they are working with the Diocese on the Faith Formation component. She also mentioned a few new recess options for the students. They now have a walking club for students who can track their distances and receive awards for achieving certain distances.

Jane also asked for prayers for her only brother who was just released from Hospice. She also mentioned the program called, "I wish my teacher knew" to give students a chance to tell their teachers some issues that they might be dealing with at home that teachers otherwise would not know about and be able to help with.

VI. New Business

Ann told the Board that there are eleven policies that need to be reviewed this year. They will be assigned to Board members soon. Also, a sign-up sheet for the Pastoral Council meetings was sent around the meeting.

VII. Old Business

Jill said that financially, we ended the year at a good point. She said that we met the goal for the Annual Diocesan Appeal and the school did a great job cutting back on costs.

VIII. Adjournment

Amy motioned we adjourn the meeting. Heather seconded. Meeting adjourned around 7:28 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 in the Sacred Heart Parish Conference Room.