**Local Advisory Council**

# Meeting Minutes

# Date 3/18/21

## Opening

The regular meeting of the Local Advisory Council was called to order at 503pm on 3/18/21 virtually by Mr.Beery.

## Present

Mr. Beery, Father Farrell, Mr. Clifford, Mrs. Clyne, Mr. Clyne, Mr. Buck, Mrs. Redinger, Mr. Douglass, Mrs. Scarlett, Mr. Gillen

## Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

## Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed at 614 pm.

## Open Issues

Father Farrell

* It is expected that capacity will increase at St. Monica Catholic Church to 50%.
* Regular Holy Week services will continue with limitations. No registration will be needed to attend Holy Week services.

Principal Beery

* Retreats have been occurring for the last two Fridays with focus on St. Joseph as a model, as it is the year of St. Joseph. Grades 3-5 on 3/19/21 and 6-8 on 3/26/21. The plan is to include the younger grades next year during Lent. Retreats may include: attending Mass, Stations of the Cross, and Confessions. Locations will include classrooms and community building.
* Theology of the Body updates include that parts 4 of 5 are done and will be finishing the series soon. The Diocese plans to carry forward utilizing Mr. Scoles from Hackett. Mr. Scoles will plan to educate K-8 teachers on content.
* Mrs. Kirby came last month to discuss that teachers need to provide self-care to themselves. She spoke last month about social and emotional learning of children. Will come soon to speak with the students in an age appropriate manner and plans to repeat the series before the end of the school year with students and staff.
* Virtual learning week is available the week following spring break ( April 4-10) for those that elect to use it.
* 2021-2022 St. Monica enrollment is open! In the previous 8 days there was a tour given by Mr. Beery for families interested in attending St. Monica. Half of the tours were from public school families including Niles and Comstock.
	+ The budget is for 210 students but would like to increase enrollment to 230-240 students.
	+ Newer families have left positive school reviews on Google.
	+ The WWMT news coverage went very well and pushed CSGK schools ontop the radar of our greater community.
	+ Word of mouth from current families is key- we have to share our positivity regarding our childrens’ experiences.
* A hype video is in the works coming out Wednesday, 3/24/21, to promote The Shamrock Shuffle. This will include how to donate, exercise promotion, community involvement, etc.
* EANS could potentially bring funds of $500-$800 per student. This is funding for non-public schools at the state level. A list of items is being made to brainstorm what money could be utilized for. 187 K-8 students could be positively impacted if funds are obtained. The worksheets were submitted for the grant money in regards to covid-19 financial losses.The feds could take back the money if misused. Discussion followed as to funds cannot be used for plumbing or bathrooms, or increasing teachers salaries. Funds could be used for UV light disinfection devices ( designed by a parent M. Rosowicz), which would decrease use/cost of Lysol disinfecting wipes. Also, funds could be used for disinfecting equipment for the athletic department. More information to follow. Mr.Clyne brought up if we used the funds would our private school status be in jeopardy? Mr. Beery said it would not affect this.
* CLE is moving forward. Mrs. Mandeville has been on-site daily working with staff and students. Big strides have been made and will continue into the 4th quarter.Teacher portfolios are expected to be presented in the 4th quarter with great excitement.
* Mr. Clifford brought up a question in regards to marketing. What is the plan moving forward? Videos? Tours? Strategy used by the McNeill’s with a targeting

prospective families? Using Facebook? Google? Mr. Beery is open to other strategies brought forth.

* + Per Mrs. Scarlett, the Boosters have money available for marketing. Question was posed what would be spent per day?
	+ K. Redinger mentioned the use of Facebook as a potential marketing site as it could target prospective families.
	+ Discussion continued that $3500 was available for marketing. Could FB just be used during open enrollment as a method to market? Jen Whiting is familiar and went to training for this.
* Mr. Gillen posed a question whether prospective families have been turned away in 2021? ( students were reached out to with no reply/no interest).
	+ It was discussed that portable structures allow more space for students (if an influx) and they could be leased or taken by feds if not used appropriately.
	+ Mr. Beery does not see a cap on # students coming to St. Monica. Will see what enrollment is and additional prospective students due to covid-19.
	+ Reiterated that teacher salaries could not be increased with EANS money, but perhaps if enrollment increases salaries could be looked at.
	+ Per the Diocese, plans to keep students spacing for next school year and have a goal of 17-18 students per classroom.

Mrs. Scarlett/ Julie Douglass wish to thank the Gillen’s for planning the Shamrock Shuffle event for the school. They verbalized appreciation for all the generosity for the teacher appreciation effort.

* Don’t forget the July 12th Golf Outing! The same marketing materials from last year will be used. More info to follow.
* The air conditioning has had some electrical work done and may be done by August for back to school.
* Photos by Mary-Kate Thompson will be available for students and families. Stay tuned for more details to follow.

## New Business

Mr. Clifford brought forward the question: what would need to be done to have no masks on the students in the fall? He verbalized appreciation for the medical team to get students into school and keep them in school.

* Mrs. Redinger voiced that the government and local health department, drives the mask mandate, not the health committee. The state of MI would need to state that people do not need to wear masks. We have to follow what the health department decides, even if it is a private school. Some considerations that were raised:
	+ With changing vaccination dosing, by April 1, 2021 every adult in the state could qualify to be vaccinated.
	+ Ascension has vaccinated 150,000 in the 65+ population.
	+ Obtaining the vaccine will assist the CDC to loosen up CDC/governmental guidelines.
	+ Other schools have done studies with students at 3 feet vs. 6 feet, all masked, and the data was similar with both. The WHO stated that 3 feet of separation is acceptable, which would allow for more students in a classroom.
	+ CDC guidelines give a continuation of structure during pandemic and have largely been the influencing force for government and local health department implementation.
	+ Hopefully by fall, quarantines will go down to 5-7 days and if exposed, and vaccinated, no quarantine will be needed.
	+ The masks will likely be the last PPE to be eliminated (some think 2022), and handwashing remains a top-priority.
	+ The state of MI opening up services has led to an increase in covid-19 numbers, especially rising numbers in Kalamazoo.
		- It was brought up by another member that adults are reaching their breaking point due to restrictions, so could any type of relaxation to cafeteria-time/ specials be offered safely to the students for more normalcy? Feel the kids need a break. Mr. Beery has had it on his mind and hopes that things will go that way. Mr. Beery will continue to allow masks breaks for students at school.
			* What are the next steps? Are there any bigger roadblocks?
	+ The biggest goals for St. Monica is staying open. Restrictions are constantly being reviewed as things change. Masks remain a key part of staying open at this time.

## Agenda for Next Meeting

List the items to be discussed at the next meeting.

## Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 633 by LAC. The next general meeting will be at 530pm on 4/15/21 virtually.

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| Minutes submitted by: | Shannon McBride |
| Approved by: | Name |