



2020-2021 St. Monica Catholic School Advisory Council

December 2, 2020

6:15 pm

Members present (virtual meeting): Angie Trudell, Krisztina Shields, Fr Guadagnoli, Lesley Jordan, Claire Webb, Brian Jacot, Laura Banse, Shannon Wishin, Debbie Diaz, Toni Zuniga, Melinda Hartnett, Mike DePompeii, Tracey Roden, Amanda Briones

Agenda

Opening Prayer – Fr Guadagnoli opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Minutes – Laura Banse presented the November meeting minutes. Michael moved to approve; Melinda seconded. Minutes approved

Business Report – Toni Zuniga submitted business report via email in advance of meeting.

Highlights from Written Report sent in Advance:

- Still in a good overall cash position of approximately \$1.5M on hand. While this balance is a bit lower than previous month, cash is constantly monitored in terms of expected cash to be received in future months to ensure cash on hand is appropriate. There were large deposits that were received in November and forecasted to be received in December.

Pastor's Report

- Pastor's Report – Fr. Guadagnoli
 - Focusing on gearing up for Christmas Masses. They will be preparing the gym for overflow of people. 3 priests will be saying Masses which will be very helpful - Father Guadagnoli and Father Mark and Father Paul. They are monitoring the Angel Tree project to help as many people as possible.

President's Report – Angie Trudell

Written Report Sent in Advance of Meeting – Highlights:

- Decision to go virtual for the week of Thanksgiving:



- Teacher stress to handle both synchronous and asynchronous learning is real
 - A rise in students going into quarantine due to close contact of parents with the virus
 - The choices of many of our families to travel, play on sports teams, have large, unmasked/minimally masked get-togethers
- Moving forward the concerns remain:
 - Family choices are leading to positive COVID tests and quarantines
 - The number of daily student quarantines impacts teachers of all grade levels
 - Synchronous/Asynchronous learning is here to stay for the 20-21 school year.
 - Awareness that this is difficult for our littlest Bearcats does not go unnoticed.
 - Another off-site virtual learning timeframe would only be implemented in the event of a Diocesan shut down, Dallas County or Texas shutdowns or staffing challenges as our subs are at a premium.

In Person Updates:

- COVID 19 Update:
 - Parent letter sent out 12/2 regarding return to campus after week of virtual learning.
 - Currently, only 11 students and 2 faculty/staff in quarantine
 - School has designated a COVID email address so parents can email with any questions/concerns. Email address will be directed to the five staff contact tracers.
 - Moving forward, any future weeks that move to virtual for all will only be because of significant dealings/advisories with either the state of Texas or Dallas County.
 - New video will go out in the Bearcat Byte this week.
- Admissions update:
 - Current enrollment is 736 students; 2 new students starting 12/8
 - Applications – 118 active inquiries and of those inquiries, 37 have submitted applications
 - January report from Angie will have full admissions report and planning.

Principal's Report – Krisztina provided the following updates:

Written Report Sent in Advance of Meeting – Highlights:

- Virtual prep work for teachers included additional technical training, teacher expectations outlined, school ipads prepped and distributed to all PreK-2 students in need of device; updated virtual guidelines shared with parents
- A few problems encountered on Day 1; essentially centered around log in issues for lower grades



- Overall received positive feedback from parents and teachers; much smoother than last spring

In Person Updates:

- Middle school switch to virtual learning for the week post-Thanksgiving was a smooth transition. Lower grades had much harder transition due to multiple issues with a high number of problems with log-ins (see above).
- Teachers are continually trying to find balance between screen time and engagement offline.
- Parents are emailing with their concerns/compliments. Questions regarding the 24 hour notice if students need to switch to virtual. The logic is to help teachers not get distracted with issues every morning but instead have time to work with student individually and ensure they can log-in. Additionally, preschool needs time to get materials to kids. Lessons can be very tactile and teachers need time to gather supplies.
- Overall IOWA scores are lower than past years. Expected with COVID and consistent with other schools.

Preschool/After School Care Report: Lesley provided the following updates:

Written Report Sent in Advance of Meeting – Highlights:

- The announcement that Preschool would be included in the Virtual Learning week was well received over-all. In the weeks prior to this, we were receiving emails from anxious parents trying to decide if on-campus learning was best for their families. Some were truly looking to Virtual Learning as an option for their family to prevent them from contracting COVID
- The preschool teachers are up to the challenge of creating a robust on-line academic platform. They are presenting with synchronous lessons in the classroom at multiple times throughout the day. The end of the day has an asynchronous Seesaw assignment that can be accomplished at any time throughout the rest of the day/evening. In an early childhood environment, we realize we need to balance active learning time with limited screentime as it is not always the best learning tool for early childhood. Each student was supplied a packet of materials to pick up before the start of the virtual learning week to assist in keeping the lessons more tactile and engaging.

In Person Updates:

- Received many parent compliments on teachers' efforts and planning for virtual week.



SAC Standing Committee Reports

- Three SAC committee reports were all submitted electronically before the meeting. Finance committee report highlights (see Business Report section above).

Academic Excellence Committee Highlights from Written Report:

- Cici Petty – Teacher of the Month
- Continuing work on gathering data on Spanish programs from select local high schools and elementaries

Alumni Relations Committee Highlights from Written Report:

- Met with the Raffle committee to finalize seller prizes for the raffle. Raffle launched on the 13th and winner will be chosen on the 18th. Please encourage your families to sell!

Father Guadagnoli closed the meeting in prayer at 7:41pm.