

St. Dominic Education Commission
March 8, 2021

Attendance: Mike Liderbach, Peter Gibbs, Mike Stenger, Kim Leubbering, Jessica Williams, Mark Goins, Jessica Rimmel, Joe Kruessel, Patrick Lahni, Bill Cavanaugh, Karen Brandstetter

Absent: PTO

1) Call to Order

2) Opening Prayer

3) Approval of February minutes **approved by unanimous consent**

4) Old Business

- Elections
 - **Current candidates: Jen Leubbering, Mary Warner, Mike Stenger**
 - **No other interest so far**
 - **Will send letter home with kindergarten and first grade**

5) New Business

- **Principal considering technology training for parents (e.g., Google Classroom)**
- **Concerns about Amazon Smile program purchases for school charity lists: no indication of who placed the order, or for whom the order was placed.**

6) Committee Reports

- **Faith Formation** (Brandstetter)
 - **See Report below**
 - **Suggestion to consider Theology of the Body school designation**
- **PTO** (reported via email)
 - **Hot lunch for Catholic Schools Week went great and we haven't heard anything negative.**
 - **Walk a Thon update in principal's report.**
 - **PTO approved \$350 for Jessica to buy teacher appreciation gifts for Bill.**
- **School Strategic Plan**
 - Academic Excellence (Peter)
 - **High school readiness survey communication - Emailed Jr. High teachers results and had a write-up in Parent Press. Positive feedback at PTO meeting.**
 - **Technology questions for Mr. Shortt questions about technology integration in the classroom, goals for the future. Will forward to Mr Shortt for future response (in person at meeting or in writing)**
 - **Grants**
 - **Learning Links Grants \$500 left to spend on Maker Space.**
 - **Funds for Vacation Bible School couldn't be used due to Covid, used to provide supplies to students in need**
 - **Suggestion to pursue grant for technology/gardening project**
 - **Question about what happened to funds from March 2020 COSI visit (cancelled due to Covid)**
 - **Teacher Engagement & Recognition (Jessica & Jessica)**

- Building formal documentation for posting job openings in various local schools and boards
 - Working on revised teacher handbook, onboarding checklist
 - Suggestion to tie subjects of in-service to goals of Strategic Plan
 - Revisiting teacher survey (last done in Spring 2019)
 - \$750 collected for teacher lunches, 3rd Thurs of each month
 - Catholic Culture, Community & Family (Brandstetter)
 - 5th grade, 8th grade took archdiocese testing for religious aptitude, results pending
 - Marketing & Communication (Mark & Joe)
 - School Website Principal intends to discuss with parish leadership tomorrow (3/9)
 - Google ad grant Working on locating tax exempt documentation
 - Marketing discussions with Parish? (Bill) No current chair for marketing committee, no regular meetings. Needs are filled ad hoc. Principal to coordinate meeting with parish leaders, Joe and Mark.
 - Social Media Policy Update (Peter) Received preliminary feedback from parish office regarding school distribution. Need to reinforce with them that intent is for policy to cover all parish organizations.
 - PTO acquiring Welcome signs for 2021-22 new students (preK, K, 1st)
 - Desire to reinforce school brand identity (marketing collateral, web site, athletics gear, etc.)
- **Principal's Report** (Bill) - see report below
- **Tuition Credit** (Lahni)
 - Kroger \$3390 for Nov-Jan, ~550 families enrolled. Enrollment has increased quarterly, but revenue has been constant. Will send program information to new school families.
 - \$210, 86 supporters from Amazon for most recent quarter
 - Upcoming:
 - April 13 Frisch's, 20% of sales
 - May 11 Chipotle 33% of sales
 - March 28 West Side Brewery, decided to postpone until health dept lifts restrictions

7) Next Meeting: Monday, April 12 at 7 pm, school library.

8) Closing Prayer

9) Adjournment (8:45)

Principal's Report

1. Registration: We have approximately 80% of current student registration collected at this time. Once we have most of the registration numbers finalized, I will inform our staff, school community and Education Commission of what the numbers are by grade level. Considering ways to recognize or incentivize classes with high-level on-time registration.

2. We received 25 new Chromebooks from Fuller two weeks ago. Josh added the software to them last week and as luck would have it, we did not have to order a new cart for these devices because last year a very expensive computer cart just showed up one day last year in the aux. lab. Nobody knows how we got it and we never paid for it. We are going to use that cart for these devices and Josh should have everything up and running very soon so the students can use them! As for the other 200 Chromebooks we ordered in the summer, I was told that they won't arrive until May 2021 or later.
3. Religious In-service for the teachers on Friday March 19. Fr. Chris, Fr. Jim and Karen Brandstetter will lead the teachers. Here's the proposed agenda of the day:

We will do some opening prayer/Scripture, then we will take the same format and work it through three times:

- a. Each of us (Jim, Chris and myself) will give a twenty minute "witness" focusing on what we have learned as disciples of Christ, as learners following Jesus.
- b. We will have focused table talk among the teachers reflecting on some questions based on each witness.
- c. Then each table will share the highlights of their table talk.

Then we will close with a guided meditation led by Fr. Chris.

4. Confirmation for our 8th Graders will be Saturday April 24 at 11:00 am (homeroom 8A) and 1 pm (8B). Fr. Jim will be confirming our 8th graders and Fr. Chris, Deacon Mark and Karen Brandstetter will be there to plan and assist in this wonderful day.
5. Walk-A-Thon-Information will be going out this week. Mark your calendars for May 14 with the Rain Out Day of May 21.
6. The target date to publish the calendar for next school year is Friday March 26 in the Parent Press.
7. Finance Council meets on Wednesday March 24. Tuition will most likely be established for next school year at this meeting. We will then publish this to the school community shortly thereafter.
8. First Holy Communion for our 2nd graders will be Saturday May 1 at 11:00 am in the church.
9. A prioritized Capital Improvement List was given to Fr. Jim, Deacon Mark and Charlie at the end of February. Input from the staff, Education Commission, and Athletic Association were compiled. Once the parish administration and I have a chance to discuss these, then we will discuss costs involved, who can pay for them, timelines, and deadlines when these will be accomplished.

10. Funds are available for school families in financial need. Funded by friends of the school and Kiwanis. Also resources available from the archdiocese, through the school or parish.

Faith Formation Report:

1) Sacraments:

- As you have seen in Bill's report and we have already discussed here, First Communion will take place for all our 2nd Graders, school and PSR, on Saturday, May 1 at 11:00 am.
- Confirmation will be on Saturday, April 24 for all our 8th grade students at 11 am and 1 pm.
- First Reconciliation will take place during school on the Tuesday and Wednesday after Easter in the afternoon, and our PSR families are making appointments for their children to meet with Fr. Jim or Fr. Chris on weekends after Easter.

2) Station of the Cross for the school:

Since we cannot have all of the school gather in the church for the Stations of the Cross, the Catholic Identity Committee screened several resources for the classes to view and participate with in their classrooms. Teachers have been asked to pray the Stations of the Cross with the students in their classrooms every Thursday afternoon at 2 pm. They will all be using the same resource from Catholic Kids Media via YouTube. **Suggestion to have homerooms each film a station to share with the school.**

3) Lenten Practice---Wailing Wall:

You have likely seen our parish "Wailing Wall" which is going up on the wall in the Gathering Space. This wall is based on the actual Wailing Wall in Jerusalem where millions of people from all over the world have taken their sorrows and their prayers and offered them back to God by writing them on paper and putting the paper in the nooks and crevices in the wall. The children filled out "stones" in their classrooms on Ash Wednesday and their prayers are the foundation for our parish Wailing Wall. Parishioners have been encouraged to fill out a stone either via a special email address listed in the bulletin or by writing one and putting it in the box on the table by the Wailing Wall. On Good Friday we will take a picture of the wall and send it to a Rabbi who works at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem and he will place our picture of our prayers into the Wall and our prayers will join the millions of others offered up there. The paper stones of our prayers will be used for the fire at the Easter Vigil that is blessed and used to light the Paschal Candle. Please add your prayers for what you or someone you know is grieving or an obstacle in life that you would like to lift up in prayer to God.

4) May Crowning:

Our 7th and 8th grade will be attending Mass on Friday, May 7 so at the end of that liturgy, we will have the May Crowning. The 8th grade students will write an essay about Mary in their life and the individuals who take part in the crowning will be determined through their essays as in years past. I am working to make sure that this can be coordinated with 8th grade graduation pictures as they will be dressed in their graduation outfits for the day.