

**St. Dominic Education Commission
May 10, 2021**

Attendance: Jessica Remmel, Peter Gibbs, Nikki Servizzi, Kim Luebbering, Mike Stenger, Karen Brandstetter, Mark Goins, Joe Kruessel, Mike Liderbach, Bill Kavanaugh, Christelle Middendorf, Patrick Lahni

Absent: PTO, Jessica Williams

1) Call to Order

2) Opening Prayer

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

4) Old Business

- Election wrap-up & Introduction of new members
 - Nikki Servizzi
 - Christelle Middendorf
 - Mike Stenger (new term)
- Chromebook update status **25 new chromebooks, assigned to primary grades, housed in Aux Lab, waiting on 125 more**
- Government PPE loans/CARES Act funding status **no update**
- 2021/2022 School Calendar **Calendar has been shared with school families. (Informed principal of potential impact of 8th grade absence in March due to Washington trip - planned prior to change of calendar).**

5) New Business

- Determine Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary for next year
 - Chair: Mike Stenger
 - Vice Chair: Mark Goins
 - Secretary: Peter Gibbs

6) Committee Reports

- **Faith Formation** (Brandstetter)
 - Administered all sacraments of initiation!
 - Reviewing measures taken for COVID that may be retained for future sacraments
 - Plans being finalized for Vacation Bible School
 - No word yet on servers returning to the altar
 - Anticipate in-person PSR next school year
- **PTO** (Hasselbeck or Korb)
 - No applicants yet for Wittich scholarship
- **Principal's Report** (Bill)
 - See report below
- **School Strategic Plan**
 - Academic Excellence (Peter)
 - Technology questions for Mr. Shortt status
 - See Q&A below.
 - STEM Club/Makerspace/Grants
 - all grant money has been spent on materials

- Continuing interest in gardening project, need new champion since Mrs. Roth is retiring
 - Received grants for 3 new Automated External Defibrillators
 - Public Speaking - done in Mr. Ward's Jr High class
 - Teacher Engagement & Recognition (Jessica & Jessica)
 - Catholic Culture, Community & Family
 - Covered with Faith Formation report
 - Marketing & Communication (Mark & Joe)
 - School Website
 - Work approved to move forward with school site refresh. Parish site will be updated later.
 - Google ad grant
 - Goals entering next school year
 - Tuition Credit (Lahni)
 - \$206.62 from Frisch's
 - Chipotle fundraiser 5/11
 - Working on Loaded Gyro fundraiser
 - Working on online bookstore fundraiser

7) Next Meeting: Monday, September 13 at 7 pm, school library.

8) Closing Prayer

9) Adjournment

Principal's Report

1. Registration Updates for 2021-22 school year.

PS - 42

K - 51 total (9 - 1/2 day) **will hire additional full-time aid due to number of students**

1 - 41

2 - 41

3 - 29

4 - 35

5 - 44

6 - 37

7 - 41

8 - 51

Total for K-8 – 370

This year's total K-8-364

PS- 49

Request for information on % of Catholics in student body

2. Capital Improvement Status-Email from Fr. Jim that was sent out to the staff last week and will be incorporated into the Parent Press in the next week or so:

Thank you for taking the time to help us determine and prioritize our capital improvements for the immediate future. Your evaluations and recommendations for improving our campus facilities are invaluable. Let me tell you what we did. Deacon Mark, Charlie DeZarn, and Dan Jacobs walked through the building and outside with your recommendations to observe first hand and clarify your observations. We then met and decided on the following priorities:

- The gym restrooms will be renovated this summer. **New floor, fixtures, paint, possible new stalls, possible AC**
- We are getting bids for more security cameras and looking into funding.
- 6th grade floors will be replaced.
- Closet doors in the lower grades will be repaired.
- We are in the process of getting estimates to repair parking lot blacktop and curbs behind the gym.
- We are replacing the noisy ice machine in Teal Hall and researching noise reduction options in cafeteria.
- Removing wall and opening up windows for more natural light in cafeteria.
- Air conditioning cafeteria, gym, lower level rooms (**auxiliary services**) near church. (getting bids and exploring possible funding)
- An outside vendor will do a deep cleaning of the entire school, including restrooms, over the summer.

3. New Hire: Mr. Lenny Winiarski went to St. Als Bridgetown, LaSalle High School, and is graduating from Bluffton University. He is getting his license in Adult/Young Adolescent Integrated Social Studies. He has played all four years on the baseball team. He comes highly recommended.

*Dr. Romanello's replacement has not been named yet. Hamilton County Education Service Center and I will be working together to make that decision on who will take Dr. Romanello's place.

**The Preschool Director has not been decided yet however we will finalize that decision very soon.

***There will be another full time Kindergarten aide that will be hired for next school year due to the large numbers in our Kindergarten class for next school year.

4. Walk a Thon Update: We have raised over \$25,000 for Walk a Thon!!!! My thanks to the parents, students, and relatives as well as the staff especially Mrs. Julie Schloemer and Mrs. Karen Awad who have chaired this event for the school. Mrs. Glassmeyer's class raised \$1,200.74 so they will be the VIP's for the walk.
5. Graduation- June 2
 - Graduation Brunch: School Gym-11 am. COVID-19 guidelines will be followed (8th grader and parents)
 - Graduation: Church-7 pm. Students will meet in the Gathering Space at 6:30 PM (Student + 4 guests)
 - Graduation Dance: Immediately following Graduation (Students only) in the gym
6. Updates on accommodations for struggling students-none at this time. There are some things that we are working on to put in place for next school year. We will work through the Academic Issues Committee on this. **Suggestion to consider offering summer school to help students overcome shortfalls.**
7. Friday May 21 Michael Holder will be here making a video for our school that we will put on our website. If you would be willing to be in the video let me know. We will also need some parents and students as well to be in the video. Michael will be using the library during the day to do the interviews as well as videotaping in the school.
8. We have decided to go with Gradelink as our new Student Information System for the 2021-22 school year. It will be more intuitive for parents, teachers, and administration, and provide an app for our parents to check their child's grades on their mobile devices as well.
9. I am working with Joe Kruessel, Mark Goins, Josh Shortt, Stephanie Sitzler and Charlie DeZarn to improve the look of our website. We have met once and we will continue to meet and communicate our progress to each other. We hope to have a new website for the school by the Fall of 2021. My thanks to everyone for their help on this.

Questions for Technology Teacher (Mr. Shortt) from Education Commission (Winter 2021)

New job acclimation/support:

- Now that we're more than half way through the year, what are your biggest struggles compared to the beginning of the year? Do you feel like you're making progress? If not, why not?
The biggest struggles continue to be with our vendors/service providers. I feel like we are making progress here slowly but surely, and there are irons in the fire to work some of these out permanently.
- When we last connected, you mentioned the struggles of different platforms all being supported by different vendors, having the right access, etc – has that been resolved? Any help needed?
It has been resolved to a degree. We are in the process of switching vendors for a few services, but there were LOTS of issues with support/contact where Mrs. Birck had left her name attached, and we had to get through quite a bit of red tape to get control back.
- Do you feel you have a good support system and resources to do your job effectively and efficiently? What would make your job easier?
- The Ed Commission previously had concerns about the “Technology” role including tech support for the parish/staff, technology teacher and many other hats and overall capacity to do it all and ensure the school is effectively progressing/integrating technology – how is this working?
 - What technical tasks are you taking on that are outside the classroom?
I am essentially in-house support for everything except the office copiers, If I can't resolve it, then it is passed to an outside vendor (typical Fuller).
 - What are your daily responsibilities?
Run/Teach classes, recess and lunch supervision, car/bus duty, troubleshoot equipment/network issues throughout the building as they arise.
 - Do you have an “official” job description? If so, please share.
- What have you accomplished so far this year that you are proud of? What makes you excited?
I am proud that we managed to get through this insane year in a relatively “normal” fashion. This was not easy. There are some other things that I don't believe I'm at liberty to discuss just yet, that will affect St. Dominic next year, and moving forward.

Technology Curriculum:

- Have you changed the curriculum from the last instructor? If so, please share the new one. What is the focus of the computer class curriculum per grade/per trimester? (FYI - links to previous curriculum we had received from last Computer Teacher is below for reference)
 - [Technology Curriculum Skills Grade K-2.docx](#)
 - [Technology Curriculum Skills Grade 3-5 .docx](#)
 - [Technology Curriculum Skills Grade 6-8 .docx](#)

My first year in a new building, I tend to keep my mouth shut and my eyes/ears open. Unless it's something egregious, I tend to not rock the boat too much. I like to see what is or is not working, and go from there. This year I have used the archdiocesan graded course of study as the benchmark, as well as utilizing Mrs. Birck's framework.

- Is there a standard recommended curriculum by grade level provided by the state or other governing group? If not, how is this decided/benchmarked to ensure consistency with other schools?

Yes, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati has a graded course of study.

- Some previous computer class activities involved learning powerpoint, excel, 3D modeling software, computer coding (with Scratch). Are you teaching any of these? Or similar? Or something you see as more beneficial?

Students learned the Google versions of MS Office suite such as Docs, Sheets, and Slides. Their use depended on grade level appropriateness, as did the projects. We had issues with both 3D printers throughout the year, but Angie Cox and I were able to tag team a project with the Junior High students where they produced "name plates" for their desks. The plan is to get more into coding and 3D modeling next year as things begin to normalize a little more.

- I hear the kids play the typing game a lot. What grade levels and amount of time are spent on this on a weekly/monthly/yearly basis? What are your expectations for typing proficiency through the grades?

The "typing game," isn't actually a game. It's lesson based typing instruction through typing.com. When a student completes 3-4 lessons, they are automatically rewarded with a "game" as a break from the actual lessons, but make no mistake, it is absolutely still skills based instruction. I don't start introducing typing.com until well into 2nd grade, though the groundwork for it starts being laid in 1st grade. With typing being a lot like reading, you cannot hold all students to the same standards. The program does an assessment of their skills, and starts them where it believes they need to be. I monitor the students and their progress, and can see what goals are achieved not only in real time, but also by looking at their accounts. My expectations are that by 6th grade, they should be well on the way to proficiency, but if you're asking for a specific "words per minute" number, I don't use that as a gauge.

- Not being part of the graded course of study, what assessments of "technology literacy", if any, are done with the students? How do you (or parents) understand if students have mastered desired skills? How do we ensure the retainment of computer skills taught from week to week, year to year?

The assessments are the projects that we work on in class. Sometimes it may be a collaborative effort with their homerooms, and sometimes it may be a multi-week project in the lab. The results of those projects, and sometimes the need to extend them past where I thought they needed to end are what I used.

- Do you feel your time with each class, per week, is sufficient to teach what you feel important for the students to learn?

Yes, though in some cases with the younger ones, it may actually be too much.

Technology Integration in Broader Curriculum/classrooms

- Is there an education plan for the teachers to continue to invest in their technology upskilling and better equip them as they integrate technology deeper in the classroom/virtual learning?

There is a technology plan within the school's strategic plan that Bill and I have been discussing. I have made several recommendations on upgrades with equipment and services, which are currently being worked on.

- How do you collaborate with the grade level teachers in teaching technology and/or ensuring the proper integration of learned skills into the broader curriculum? (e.g. if you are teaching a certain class excel, do you let the grade level teachers know so they can integrate the use of excel into one of their math/science projects?)

This is something that has had lots of moving parts this year for multiple reasons. As the year has gone on, and the classroom teachers and I have become more comfortable with each other, the collaboration efforts have grown. There have been plenty of collaborative projects across grade levels this year, and though they aren't quite where I'd like them to be as of this writing, I am in the process of setting summer planning sessions up with the teachers to get something more concrete put together.

- Do the grade level teachers assume some role in teaching technology as well?
They do. As we slowly add more Chromebooks into the mix, this role will grow.
- How can we better integrate technology into the everyday *operations* of the classrooms? Are we doing enough? Too much? Too little? Are our teachers comfortable using the Technology resources available to them?
Most every teacher in this building has what I would call at least a working knowledge of technology. Obviously some are far more advanced than others, but this is something Bill and I have discussed, and are working on plans to help get some of the folks who are behind a little more caught up. I would say that we are doing "enough," but this year has been one for the ages. Compared to other schools I've taught at, this faculty is definitely the most comfortable and willing to learn.

General thoughts on K-8 Technology in Education...:

- What are the common weak spots among St Dominic students in computer usage and technology know-how?
As of now, the biggest weak spot I have noticed is the lack of ability to translate proper grammar into print on a computer. I have been working with 3-5 on this over the last few weeks. I have also been trying to hammer that they need to remember their Google sign-ins. This has been a school-wide issue.
- To the best of your knowledge what are other schools doing that St Dominic is not?
This is not something that I have a frame of reference on currently. I've been concentrating on trying to get St. Dominic taken care of on several fronts.
- What opportunities should be available to students for technology learning outside the classroom?

Looking Ahead...

- What are your goals looking forward to the end of this school year and future years?
I would like to see us get back to a more normal situation next year, though we don't have a lot of control over that. The handful of goals that I set for the building going into next year are in progress, but I'm not comfortable announcing them until all the i's are dotted and t's are crossed. Bill knows where we stand on these projects and if he would like to discuss them, he will.

- What items (equipment, software) are on your wish list to help you do your job?
Aside from the Chromebooks which are trickling in, I have to defer to the previous question. We have several things in progress, but I'd prefer to keep them close to the vest until things are finalized.
- What are your top 3 goals for the school and the students for the next year? How can the Education Commission help? How can we help you to be a better instructor?
 1. 1:1 equipment
 2. Upgraded Classroom equipment
 3. Upgraded wi-fi infrastructure
- Thoughts on website development plans and/or any other "digital" initiatives for St. Dominic?
Bill, Stephanie, and I have been working together to come up with our ideal website for the school. We are currently working with Joe Kreussel and Mark Goins to make this a reality. Joe and Mark are in the process of putting together the framework, and the goal is to have things up and running sometime this summer. I have let everyone know that I'm more than happy to take on being a site admin that can help with updates, etc.