

St. Dominic Education Commission
April 11, 2022

Attendance: Jenny O'Brien, Peter Gibbs, Christelle Middendorf, Mark Goins, Jessica Rimmel, Nikki Servizzi, Stephanie Singler (PTO), Joe Kruessel, Patrick Lahni, Jessica Williams

Absent: Karen Brandstetter (DRE)

1) Call to Order (7:00)

2) Opening Prayer

3) Approval of March minutes - Approved

4) Old Business

- Market Day - possibility of moving to Tuition Credit Program
 - No updates from Patrick. He still needs to understand potential payment hurdles.
- Social Media (Jessica Williams)
 - Nov-Jan survey of Victory and Seton Facebook pages - Dominic has fewer followers and posts, but not sure what school would like to do in regards to communication strategy...opportunities may be available
 - Jenny O'Brien is discussing with the parish tomorrow a posting for a position for school for part time marketing focal - to focus on social media and website. Joe suggests reaching out for potential co-op from local universities.
- Registration numbers (O'Brien)
 - Enrollment at 362 for next year Pre-K - 8. (397 last year). Drop in Preschool, Kindergarten (only 28) and 1st grade (43).
- Wellness policy (O'Brien)
 - Bake Sales will no longer happen going forward (agreed to with PTO)
 - No ice cream during Lent

5) New Business

- Education Commission Elections
 - Only 1 candidate submission so far - Erin Paff-Rich (so no elections needed).
 - Jessica is interested, as is Patrick, in coming back for a 2nd and 3rd term, respectively.
 - No need for elections, or soliciting for any additional candidates.
- School Plays - 8th grade play will be back for next year

6) Committee Reports

- **Faith Formation** (Brandstetter)
 - See Karen's report at end of these minutes.
- **PTO** (Railey and Lively)
 - Sound system - new system ordered for gym
 - New lockers for Mrs. Williams's room
 - Motorized shades for block windows in gym

- Spring Book Fair 4/23-5/1 in Library
- Walk-a-thon - 5/13. Kickoff was last Friday. Theme was Bengals. "Who-Dey" the mascot visited on Friday.
- Discontinue bake sales for next year.
- **Principal's Report (O'Brien)**
 - Update on 1:1 devices - all grades have devices. Cases coming in as available. Take home cases for grades 1-3 for extenuating circumstances only, currently. Next year, they can go home whenever needed. Looking into charging cords.
 - Aux budget will fund in future. No need for any purchases next year.
 - Piloting ARK test next year (replaces ACRES test which was only done twice during a child's time at St. Dominic). This is an assessment of religious education knowledge. This will take place at every grade level 2-8. Will make it easier for teachers and schools to react to feedback. The Archdiocese is paying for it this year.
 - Ed Commission Meetings next year. Monday 10/10 (school out of service) to be moved to Monday 10/17. Monday 4/10 (Easter Monday) will remain as is.
- **School Strategic Plan**
 - Will reassess in fall after teacher's complete spring SWOT analysis and school steering committee assesses results.
 - Catholic Culture, Community & Family(Middendorf)
 - No updates.
 - Marketing & Communication (Goins , Kruessel)
 - Website training - in June with Joe, Peter, Mark, Stephanie and Josh
 - Potential for new promotional video next year (slight edits to current one, e.g., new Parish name)
 - Google ads - may need to revisit with new parish if we get a new tax id
- **Tuition Credit (Lahni)**
 - January 31 Frisch's fundraiser - \$214 received on 3/31
 - Haven't received March 4 fundraiser check yet
 - 3/16 Chipotle - \$149 raised
 - Kroger will be receiving \$3298 for the previous quarter. 500+ households
 - Recently received \$291 quarter payout from AmazonSmile

7) Open Floor Discussion

- New registration requirements this year for new students
 - Now need 2 teacher recommendations; Current report card from school
 - Feedback from one parent: language used in the process can be perceived as unwelcoming. Can we change wording to make it more inviting and welcoming as appropriate for next year.
- Facilities - outside of the gym needs some TLC. Would like Parish to address.

8) Next Meeting: Monday, May 9 at 7 pm, school library

9) Closing Prayer

10) Adjournment (8:15)

Faith Formation Report for education Commission Meeting, April 11, 2022:

R.C.I.A.:

This Saturday at the Easter Vigil, there will be 5 adults Baptized and three received into Full Communion in the Catholic Church. With the addition of three high school students, there will be a total of 11 adults Confirmed in the faith at the Easter Vigil.

I will need to be recruiting some “new blood” and younger blood to be R.C.I.A. team members. If you know of anyone who would be good at sharing their faith with other adults in an Evangelizing way, please let me know.

First Communion:

First Communion will be held on Saturday, May 7th at 11:00 am. There are 49 children who will make their First Communion that day. We are bringing back “Jesus Day”. This will take place on May 6th, the Friday before First Communion for the school children. The PSR teacher will be doing some of the activities during the second grade classes prior to the First Communion. Please pray for these children as they prepare to make their First Communion.

P.S.R. and the Family of Parish:

As I mentioned at our last meeting the D.R.E.’s from our Family of Parishes met with Fr. Ben to discuss the faith formation programs for the children who attend public schools. Three out of the five parishes have active programs, that being Our Lady of Victory, St. Simon’s and our parish. I think there might be a few families that participate at St. Simon’s who are currently parishioners at St. Al’s. Fr. Ben charged us with submitting proposals for merging the programs into one program at one location, that being St. Simon’s. His preference would be to make that happen for this coming school year. He did say that we could submit alternative plans, but it was clear that he is leaning that way. I submitted an alternative proposal which seeks to have one more year in our current programs at each location. During this coming year, we would do two additional things. One would be to take the time needed to plan wisely and well for the merged program while nurturing the new identity of our new parish. The second would be to plan 4-6 community events for the children and their families from all five parishes. All of the DRE’s are hopeful that this proposal will be accepted by Fr. Ben. We all feel that trying to make this combined program happen so quickly will leave our families feeling that they have no real choice and this will add to our families feeling disenfranchised.

The other item that was discussed with great enthusiasm by the DRE’s was the potential for building a Youth Ministry program for all five parishes to participate in. At the three parishes we all have parishioners asking about having some programming for our youth and some of those people are even interested in volunteering. Each of the DRE’s could immediately see the benefits of beginning a program for youth that would include all five parishes. The DRE from Our Lady of Victory told us that Fr. Ben for some reason doesn’t want to even discuss Youth Ministry until July 1st. Maybe that’s because he is thinking that to develop some ways to even start such a program would necessitate the hiring of a Youth

ministers, but actually we could begin to do some programming that would at least break the ice again with the youth for the parishes.

In that vein, I am going to submit another proposal that looks at organizing 5 events for the youth of our parishes to take place between August and December. Each of the DRE's will work on this together and bring together an initial team of folks who can help with these events and possibly continue to work developing a solid Youth Ministry program for our Family of Parishes. The DRE's will meet again tomorrow and we are to give our proposals to Fr. Ben after that meeting. The five initial events might be things like, these are only suggestions:

1. Pizza, Play and Prayer
 1. Two games are available for the youth, "4 square in the air" and "Ga-Ga ball"
 2. Pizza and Prayer are also opportunities for the kids to get to know each other and the adults of each parish better.
2. "5 in 1 Retreat" where the kids and adults go to each parish throughout the day on a Saturday and each parish offers a specific aspect of a teen retreat, like one parish hosts donuts and ice breakers, another hosts a short presentation and some mixed small group discussions, another hosts lunch and individual reflection time, another hosts closing mass, etc.
3. Another is a "Study Slam" where kids come and get any help they need in their school work and we have "experts" on hand to help them, with snacks and closing prayer.
4. Another is a Teen Transition Panel where parents and teens listen to and ask question of other teens who have recently been through major transitions, like 8th grade into high school and high school into college, not to ask programming and organizational questions, but the questions about how they really began to feel comfortable in their new school, questions about friends, family, etc.

This would allow for the five parishes to immediately begin ministry to our youth and we would need to work together and help form the identity of the new parish through this program. This would be seen by parishioners as the new parish meeting a shared need in a creative way.