

St. Dominic Education Commission

October 10, 2019

Attendance: Bill Cavanaugh, Dr Romanello, Amy Hafner, Kim Leubbering, Jennifer Bizailon, Ken Streder, Jeff Lively, Patrick Lahni, Peter Gibbs, Mike Liderbach, Juliane Belisle, Jessica Williams

Absent:

1) Call to Order - 7:00

2) Opening Prayer

3) Approval of September Minutes - **Unanimous consent**

4) IOWA Test Results - Dr. Romanello (7:10-7:30)

- Different testing methods (online vs paper), makes result comparisons more difficult
- Third grade: below nat'l average on certain math skills, particularly fractions. Teachers are optimistic that new/current text book is better aligned with IOWA standards. Also, third grade is first exposure to this format of IOWA.
- Fourth grade is fairly strong across the board, but least strong in math.
- Fifth grade: Weakness in geometry (probably because lessons come later in the year), slight weakness in fractions.
- Sixth grade: recurring weakness in geometry
- Seventh grade: Above national percentiles in all areas!
- Seeing steady improvement year-over-year for any given group/class of children (e.g., class of 2021, class of 2022).
- Since administration doesn't think IOWA provides a valid measurement of geometry due to timing, needs to identify some other tool for measuring geometry competency.
- With class of 2021, students will take IOWA test and COGAT abilities test instead of HSPT

5) Principal's Report - Mr. Cavanaugh (7:30-7:45)

- See attached

6) Old Business (7:45-7:50)

- Bylaw Change Proposal – Liderbach
 - Posted to Google drive, will post to school website when credentials are enabled

7) New Business (7:50-8:00)

- Teacher Committee Coverage by Ed Commission
 - Jeff to liaise with Marketing
 - Juliane to liaise with Catholic ID
 - Peter to liaise with Academic Issues
- Social Media Policy Revisit?
 - School may take action on policy violations, even if they happen off grounds and/or after hours
 - Desire to consolidate Ken's document with 'best practices' from Athletics, internet policy in handbook. Also need to incorporate staff-specific policies into staff documentation.

8) Committee Reports –

- PTO (Hafner/Becker) - 8:00 – 8:05
 - Trunk Or Treat on Oct 24
 - Book Fair coming Nov 9-10, 12. Commission registered frustration, by unanimous consent, that parish office is not allowing book fair to be held in parish center where it's convenient and accessible to all members of the parish community. This will have a detrimental effect on the school.
- School Strategic Plan (Peter et al)
 - Financial updates on Strategic Plan items
 - \$200 for Helping Hands, pending written proposal (see below)
 - Reimbursing employees for fingerprinting
 - \$2500 marketing budget for year
 - Academic Excellence (Peter, et al) – 8:05-8:15
 - Received update from Jan McReynolds, various initiatives aligned with strategic plans. See attachment.
 - STEM plans to be in place by December
 - Anecdotal feedback that new high school students are having less difficulty with Google, OneNote, perhaps due to changes last school year.
 - Catholic Culture/Community/Family (Kim) – Helping Hands Community
- Service Club to receive \$200 upon proposal.
 - Teacher Recognition/Engagement (Jessica) - 8:15-8:25
 - Overview of teacher survey. Results mostly positive. Summary available upon request.
 - Marketing/Communication - 8:20-8:25
 - New budget, considering renewed sale around Christmas
- Tuition Credit (Lahni) - 8:25-8:35
 - Frisch's, Chipotle, LaRosa's fundraisers from last month generated ~\$600 revenue
 - Planning fundraisers for Frisch's, Panera.
 - Starbucks can't do traditional fundraiser, but can donate product and/or staff time (teacher appreciation?)
 - Reimbursement of \$62 per child
 - Working on project to set up Amazon wish lists for teachers
- Faith Formation - 8:35-8:45
 - Updates on first reconciliation, confirmation retreat
 - Concerned with lack of organization by parish staff around confirmation retreat

8) Next Meeting Monday November 11th at 7pm in school library.

9) Closing Prayer

10) Adjournment 8:45

Principal's Report for Education Commission 10/14/19

1) Update on Computer Lab and Aux. Lab-both labs have been moved from the library area up to the Jr. High and Room 210. The computer lab has gotten an air conditioner in it currently

[note: used, not as effective as necessary].

The auxiliary lab does not yet have an air conditioner in it.

2) Articles for the Parent Press-I am in need of articles/blurbs for the Parent Press so if you have

any please send to me.

3) Trunk or Treat-October 24th. We will be selling pizza again this year and so far there are 35 cars that will be decorating their cars. The teachers and I will be dressing up once again this year.

4) Marketing Budget-\$2500.00 has been put in the budget for this year. The Marketing Committee will be discussing how best to use this money for this year. Believe income from sweaters provides another \$700 to budget on top of this

5) A number of teachers-(11) have signed up for the Fall Scripture Class "Catholicism" which meets on Tuesday nights from 7 pm-9 pm taught by Fr. Jim and Fr. Chris. They will be getting credit as part of their religious certification. Open to the public, no cost

6) The teachers did not want to be compensated for the extra duties they currently do. They did not see how this could be fair to administer for me and be fair across the board. Committee desire to revisit this decision in 1-2 years. We want to respect wishes of current staff, but also ensure that our benefits package is attractive to talented new hires.

7) West side speech contest is back on for this year, hosted at Elder/Seton, in the spring. Dates and other details TBA.

Academic Issues Update

From Jan McReynolds 10/9/19:

The Academic Issues Committee met for the first time after the staff meeting yesterday. The original meeting date was rescheduled due to the early dismissal on October 1st. I have presented information and discussed topics pertaining to the Academic Strategic Plan at various meetings this year. I have attached a copy of the Academic Strategies Plan for year 3 of our School Improvement Plan for you to share with the Education Commission. Please note the inclusion of problem solving as well as project-based learning in year 3 of our strategies.

This is a list of topics that have been discussed and/or set in motion:

- Professional Development (New Program)- Renaissance Flow 360 Program Star Math/Star Reading K-8 (Session scheduled for October 25th)
- STEM- Mrs. Schloemer, Mrs. Fettig, and Mrs. Tepe will lead a STEM Club for grades 3 & 4 (Other projects are in the works)
- RTI Schedule- Elder/Seton Students provide tutoring/assistance schoolwide (Still need to address Community Outreach)
- Implement Instructional Strategies for Problem Solving (School Improvement Plan)
- Cross-Curricular Projects- (Discussed topics at the May meeting) Implement by December
- Incorporate Project-Based Learning Activities- (Develop an Observation Checklist to assess) Target date TBD
- SWOT Results- Discussed at Academic Issues (Staff will finalize the top 5 from Weakness/Threats List), will be addressed at the November Staff Meeting

I will update you on progress regarding the listings above and topics that will be addressed in the future. I would like to meet at some point to discuss our overall plan of action. Thanks so much, I appreciate your willingness to be the main liaison for this task!