

Minutes
St. Edward Pastoral Council Meeting
November 1, 2016
6:30 P.M.

Present: Fr. Allen Bratkowski, Barb Pippenger, Jean Spencer, Anne Sadowski, Laura Gellott, Ben Baran, Mike Marz, Shirley Chmielewski, Rob Steberl, Cindi Johnson (staff to the Council)

Excused: Marilyn Pelky, Lynn Michelau, Tom Determan, Sr.

Approval of Minutes from September 6, 2016 Meeting:

There were four minor corrections to the minutes. Ben Baran made a motion to approve the minutes and Mike Marz seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with the corrections.

Old Business:

1. School Collaboration Updates: Fr. Allen, Ben Baran, Marcia Pfost, and Laura Gellott attended the all-parish Summit on Racine Catholic Education that was held on Monday, October 17, 2016, at Sacred Heart Church. Two officials from the School office of the Archdiocese made a presentation, along with S. Chris Broslavik from the Racine Dominican Sisters.

Laura Gellott distributed copies of notes she took at the summit meeting.

The collaboration process envisions the creation of a system of Racine Catholic Schools, analogous to the Seton Catholic Schools system created by grouping together a number of the Catholic schools in the city of Milwaukee. This would thus be a “system within a system.” Among the benefits of such a structure would be a visible and viable “brand;” the possibility of cost saving and sharing in purchasing; an opportunity to emphasize Catholic identity; and the greater possibility of securing grants.

The presenters stated that they see the Racine Catholic School system as a “growth model.” Earlier visions of collaboration looked at the consolidation and merging of schools. Now there is a hope for expansion, perhaps even opening schools that have been closed in the past. All of this is predicated on continuation of voucher money through the Parental Choice - Private School Voucher Program.

According to the presenters, each school will keep its own identity; no jobs will be lost; any reduction in staffing will be through attrition; each school will have its own principal. School staff and administrators will be employees of the system. All parishes in Racine will contribute financially to the system.

Several new positions are envisioned: a school director/chief academic officer (a sort of super principal); a CEO/president of the system; and a business director. One or more of these may be individuals already employed in one of the schools; such a person might hold two job titles going forward.

The Archdiocese has set a target date of December 2016 for forming three committees: Finance, Governance, and Marketing-Communications. January 2017 is the target date for seating a board of directors.

Several participants in the summit meeting questioned the feasibility of this timetable. Others, especially those representing schools not currently participating in the Choice program, raised questions about the competitiveness of tuition and funding at their schools. One person asked if it would be possible to hire a short term director to work through the details of finance and to carry out the structuring of committees and the board, with a goal of completing this by the end of the second semester rather than January. The response was that there is no money left for such a position. All funds were expended on the consultant, who in fact resigned her position short of the six month contract on which she had been hired.

2. Parish Cluster Update:

St. Edward and St. Richard pastoral councils will have a joint meeting / pot luck / Advent evening of reflection on December 13, at St. Richard's. Rich Harter from the Office of Evangelization at the Archdiocese will lead the reflection on the "One Percent Challenge."

The Archdiocese is sponsoring a "Multi-Parish Institute" aimed at getting parishes to collaborate more effectively. The sessions will be held on three separate occasions (January 17, March 4, June 6) from 10:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. at the Cousins Center. Twelve people from each parish cluster will be asked to attend.

(Laura Gellott subsequently followed up with Mark Kemmeter, Director of Planning and Councils with the Archdiocese. Based on the written plan submitted to the Archdiocese in September 2015 by St. Edward, St. Richard and St. Patrick, he feels that our two parishes are well on their way to effective collaboration. We should wait until closer to the time when we begin to collaborate more fully with St. Patrick Parish before attending one of the Institute meetings, since these will continue into the future.)

3. Parish Website: The new website is ready to be launched. A staff member from LPi came to the parish in September and provided training to several staff members and volunteers.

Maintenance and updates to the site should be provided by parish staff, particularly Pam Belongia.

4. Archdiocesan Sponsored Parish Leadership Event. On September 30 Rob Steberl, Marilynn Pelky, Laura Gellott attended the event offered for parish staff and leaders at the Cousins Center. Workshops included topics on moving parishes "from maintenance to mission," extending hospitality at weekend liturgies, and a new initiative from the Office on Evangelization – "The Once Percent Challenge:" spending 15 minutes a day in Scripture reading and reflection.

5. Follow-ups from September council meeting:

- Choir rehearsal has moved to Sunday morning
- New Member Weekend. Need to expand this effort – perhaps with coffee and kringle; a table at the Christmas Fair; revising the contents of the folder given to prospective parishioners. Father Allen is sending a letter to all new registrants to the parish.
- Changing the greeting on the phone system so that "St. Edward Parish" precedes "Our Lady of Grace Academy. Bruce is still working on how to re-record the message.
- Parish or faith affiliation of families in CDC, with an eye toward inviting those who are not members of a faith community to join St. Edward: Lorie Czerwinski is putting a question on the form asking about parish affiliation. The next step will be to extend the outreach.
- The Personnel Committee has not met in several months.

6. Fall Fun Fest:

- Revenue was down
- The committee will be looking for someone to run children's games next year
- Overall, more people are needed to be part of the team

A general discussion followed on the theme of the overall need for more volunteers across many areas of parish life, including the ministries of reader and Eucharistic ministers at Mass. The conversation indicated that serious discussion is needed about ways to revitalize attendance at Mass and to honestly address the vitality of the parish.

New Business:

1. Parishioner Concerns:

- Suggestion to "block off" pews in the back of the church to get people to sit closer to the front.
- Issues with Mass Servers._Rob Steberl brought up the concern about the frequent "no shows" of servers at the 4:30 Mass. This is less of a problem at the 9:30, although even there absence is a problem. Proposed

solutions ranged from holding servers to higher expectations: show up or arrange for a substitute OR be removed from the roster. It was also suggested that an effort be made to recruit new servers from the school, from the A.C.T.S. youth group, and to encourage parents and children to serve together. Fr. Allen has already suggested the latter in one of his weekly columns in the bulletin.

Committee Reports:

Prayer and Worship: Mike Marz reporting

- On Wednesday, September 14 a joint Prayer and Worship committee meeting was held with St. Richard's to discuss joint topics
- Nov 1: Day of the Dead: program will be held in Schaefer Hall, presented by students in the school
- Nov 5: A prayer service honoring military veterans will be held at St. Edward, with a reception to follow in Schaefer Hall. This is an undertaking of the West Racine Council of Churches.
- Nov 12: Grandparents Day with reception.
- Dec 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe school function will be held; Eloy is working on this (more below)
- Joe Marco is doing a painting to remain up during Advent
- No children's liturgy or babysitting service will be provided in the near future; the person who was going to do this has now declined to do so.

Building and Grounds: Ben Baran reporting

- No meeting in awhile
- Work on the steps has been completed.
- Need to do: ridges for church roof, leak on science lab in OLGA, curb coming into driveway

Finance/Budget Update: Cindi Johnson and Barb Pippinger reporting

- We received the first check from the State of Wisconsin from the Parental Choice / voucher program
- Parental Choice/school audit is finished
- RPC auditors would like to see separate checking accounts for the school and church, however this is not possible due to archdiocesan policy.
- Bills are being paid

School Advisory: Anne Sadowski reporting

- OLGA demographics: Total students: 222; tuition-paying: 28, Choice/voucher: 194; Total Catholic: 140, choice Catholic 118, non-choice Catholic: 22
- Latino Enrollment Institute School Visit Notes: the mentor principal felt we were doing well and allowing integration to occur naturally with events planned throughout the school year
- ENL (English New Learners) program: Jenny Determan considering taking 18 credits through Notre Dame
- Fr. Allen reached out to the Racine Dominican Sisters in attempt to maintain the Dominican tie to our school. Catherine Gundluch and Connie Roybal, two Racine Dominican Associates, attended our board meeting to observe and by the end of the evening both decided to join the OLGA Advisory Board.
- School Choice Audit completed. We are no longer required to return unused funds. We now keep a reserve account to be used by the school for future needs and/or improvements.

Endowment: Fr. Allen and Cindi reporting. The fund gained during the previous quarter.

Staff Reports:

Our Lady of Grace Academy:

- No report (covered by Anne Sadowski under School Advisory, above)

Child Development Center: Lorie Czerwinski written report:

- This is the 18th year of the CDC.

- Our enrollment is effectively at capacity. We have over 120 children currently enrolled; this includes infant through school age children, with an average daily attendance of 79 children.
- We have restructured our 3K and 4K curriculum/classrooms to ensure that we remain highly competitive.
- We had a surprise visit from our state licenser last week. We usually have two visits a year. The inspection of our facility was a good one. There were a few items that need to be fixed/addressed but nothing of major concern.
- Over the past two months we have had many family engagement opportunities, such as Grandparents Day held on October 20; and Halloween Open House held on October 27. Both of these events were very well attended. On November 17, Prevent Blindness will be checking our children's eyes for proper development.
- We will also be having our last two Parent Cafe sessions in November in which we are in partnership with 4C for Children and UW Extension.
- Next week the Department of Public Instruction's Child and Adult Food Program will be doing an audit on our food program. I do expect a good outcome.
- We are now beginning our parent/teacher conferences. It takes us over a month and a half to complete these one-on-one conferences. We meet with every family to discuss their child's progress. Our program uses individual child portfolios to document the child's progress over time.
- We have added on to our Family Intake Form a question asking our newly enrolled families what their parish affiliation is, if any.
- Lastly, just this past month, our center was given the honor of being voted second best child care provider by the *Racine Journal Times* Best Of Contest. We have ranked in the top three for the past five years.

Christian Formation:

- 48 students have registered for religious education for this year; three students in K & 1st, six students in 2nd & 3rd, ten students in 4th & 5th, eleven students in 6th, 7th & 8th, eight students in Confirmation I (9th) & Confirmation II (10th), and ten students in Confirmation III (11th grade).
- Confirmation III (11th grade) candidates will be attending "Inspirio" Youth Retreat Center on December 18-19 for an overnight retreat.
- Monday December 12 is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Our Lady of Grace Academy students who are members of A.C.T.S. afterschool program will present a play "The Story of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Juan Diego" to students, parents, staff, faculty and members of the parish who would like to attend.
- Parents of six students from Our Lady of Grace Academy have requested information /classes for their children to receive sacraments. Sacramental preparation classes will begin in November / December.
- Our remaining fall dates/speakers / topics for Lifelong Learning are as follows;
 - November 6 – Rita Burgess / Eloy Contreras "How Different Cultures Honor the Dead"
 - November 13- Bill Frayer – St. Vincent De Paul -- Celebrating the Jubilee Year: The Corporal Works of Mercy"
 - December 11 – Jacqui Loughan – Intergenerational Session
- As a way to expand lifelong learning / adult formation opportunities for all three of our cluster parishes, during the season of Advent Rita Burgess will be offering a six-week study/discussion group at St. Patrick Parish in lower Cristo Rey Hall on Thursday mornings from 10:00 to 11:00am. We will be studying "The Infancy Narratives of Jesus".

Pastor's Remarks:

- Catholic Stewardship Appeal is in February, 2017. Fran Angelini will chair the effort again but this is last year he will do so. A volunteer will be needed for the following year.
- Attendance at Lifelong Learning is poor. It is embarrassing to bring in good speakers and have so few people attend.
- The One Percent Challenge – daily Scripture reading and reflection, will be discussed at the joint pastoral council meeting in December.
 - Annual parish meeting. Suggestions included another presentation by Rossi construction, or a Town Hall Meeting to discuss the vitality of the parish.
 - Tuesday, December 13, will be a potluck at St. Richard's for a joint pastoral council meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08pm.