

**Saint Katharine Drexel School  
Committee Minutes  
9.8.20  
7:00 pm via zoom**

**Attendees:**

Greg Steil, Jennifer Wendorf, Father Mike, Kathy Hoch, Angela Zwald, John Bowser, Tom Anderson, Mark Roedl, Sarah Bindl, Jennifer Nampel, Danielle Paul, Estela Calvo-Gil, Marybeth Schessow

Absent: N/A

**Call to Order:**

Angela Zwald, Committee President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**Opening Prayer:**

Opening prayer was led by Danielle Paul

**Introduction of Guests:**

Kathy Hoch, Tom Anderson

**Approval of Minutes:**

Greg Steil made a motion to approve the August minutes followed by Estela Calvo-Gil

**Roundtable - Share something positive:**

Father Mike shared the oak tree was just planted out front, Kathy Hoch shared that chorus is going well, Angela mentioned the school year is off to a great start, Marybeth shared there are welcome feelings, John Bowser shared that the kids are enjoying school

## Administrator's Report:

### **Principal's Report September 8, 2020**

- Open House went very well. I received a lot of positive feedback on it. Parents really liked having it in the evening so more parents can attend.
- The start of the school year has gone very well considering all of the additional requirements, restrictions and tasks that have been implemented. As a school we continue to focus on SEL, assessment strategies, priorities of safety. The students have done very well with following the new requirements, etc. They do well with keeping masks on, but the distancing is a challenge. So far we have not had any students become ill at school, nor have we been notified of concerns of exposure from families.
- I need to figure out a way to allow the students to attend Mass at least every other week. I will work with Fr. Mike to see what we can do. It seems so strange to not be able to celebrate Mass as a school.
- We have implemented our Education in Virtue as Disciples of Christ program. The central idea is that true happiness comes from living a virtuous life. We have a different virtue each week and we talk about what it looks like to live that virtue. Our first virtue was Affability (to be friendly) and even our youngest students can give examples of how to live that virtue.
- The Reopening School Core Committee (via emails) has discussed numbers of covid cases in Dodge County and what it means for us. At this time we have not set any criteria or specific number at which we would go all virtual. We need to meet the week of September 14, to discuss our plan for October: Do we go 5 days a week? Do we keep virtual Wednesdays? What information/numbers/other criteria do we base this on?
- Construction/sidewalks around the school are complete. A pedestrian gate is going to be added to the fence off of James St. so people can avoid walking through the driveway area. This will be helpful during the

school day as well because we are keeping the gates to the playground/school parking lot closed from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Parents can park in the church parking lot or on James St. and walk to the main entrance to school if they need to enter school during the day.

- The cameras, buzzer and keyless entry have been installed on the main entrance to school off the parking lot. Monitors and buzz-in systems are in the office and the Before School/After School rooms. From both rooms you can view visitors and allow people in. This has been a WONDERFUL addition!
- An update on Title Funds: We are also using part of our **Title 1** Funds to make the Learning Support Coordinator position, MacKenzie VerHage, a full-time position. Title 1 Funds will also be used to purchase the F & P Benchmark Assessment Program and the Wilson Reading Program to assist MacKenzie in assessing and working with her students. **Title 2** funds will be used for our Professional Development on the Forward Exam and on Ready Math. Eric Larson from CESA 6 will be providing our PD on the Forward Exam implementation, and Joel Burdick will be coordinating our PD on Ready Math in the Spring. **Title 4** was used to purchase the IXL Program and 2 additional Lenovo Tablets for our 1st and 2nd graders. We are still waiting for our 28 Lenovo Tables, which we purchased with our ESSER Funds for grades 1 & 2, to arrive.
- The 2020-21 classroom numbers to-date are: 3K: 10 students, 4K: 28 students, 5K: 17 students, Grade 1: 14 students, Grade 2: 14 students, Grade 3: 21 students, Grade 4: 17 students, Grade 5: 9 students, Grade 6: 17 students, Grade 7A: 12 students, Grade 7B: 12 students, Grade 8: 16 students. 3K-8= 187
- Students in the BDUSD and at SKDS are being offered free lunch until the end of the calendar year or until money runs out.

## Pastor's Report:

The church will be closed for 48 hours after use.

Father Sergio - New priest until our priest from Guatemala arrives

## **Committee Reports:**

Finance Committee - John Bowser shared there are no updates

Parish Council Liason Report - Greg Steil reported that they are looking to get a stewardship committee going again (Julie Hammer, Barb Heinzen, Bob Einwalter). They are looking at expanding mass to 4:30 Saturday in the church, 8:00 Sunday in the church, 10:00 in the gym, and 12:00 Sunday to be the mass for bilingual participants. Greg also mentioned that the tri-parishes had 50% of normal attendance through the last six months. 35-60% is the general range of parishioner attendance in the arch-diocese for the last six months.

## **Unfinished Business:**

Fundraising - Football Mania was approved although there are some changes that will be communicated with families

New ideas for fundraising were discussed such as a family event like a parish picnic with a raffle, a fundraiser that involves the parish and the school. The next step will be to contact other parishes that already have a parish festival.

Reopening Committee - The committee is meeting to discuss whether to have students attend 5 days or keep Wednesdays virtual.

## **New Business:**

Strategic Planning Goal Setting led by Tom Anderson

The discussion mainly focused on solidifying the relationship between the parish and school. What will being successful in this area look like? There needs to be an awareness of what goes on at school, families to be involved in the parish, a full sense of community, mentoring program, families attending mass on Sundays, communication needs to be more than just a page in the bulletin. A suggestion was made that the bulletin be sent home in family folders once per month in an effort to be sharing information both ways. We need to have a goal that is measurable. For example, if we want to start with increasing mass attendance by school families we would get baseline data and monitor regularly if there is an

increase. Financial commitments was also discussed and the importance of communication being a two-way street. Parents may be interested in knowing more about the financial aspects of the parish.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Closing prayer was led by Father Mike

### **Adjournment:**

Danielle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jenny Wendorf made a second motion to adjourn the meeting.