

St. Gregory the Great Parish School

School Commission Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2014 – 6:00 p.m.

Attendance

Members Present: Fr. Tom Demse, Yolande Lasky, John Farney, Michael Hafemann, Susan Feider Kelly, Joey Kovnesky, Lisa Rohde, Jeff Senn, Mary Wejrowski

Members Excused: Jennifer Dunning

1. Prayer

Led by Fr. Tom

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the August School Commission meeting were distributed, reviewed, and approved.

3. Pastor's Report

Fr. Tom informed the commission that it is planned to have the school's first floor tiles replaced in summer 2015, as the second floor flooring was replaced this previous summer.

4. Discussion of K3 Program

Fr. Tom presented numbers that display a trend of decreasing enrollment in K3 over the past five years (20 students 5 years ago; 6 students current year) and informed the commission that the parish/school is losing money in order to operate the program

School Commission members created a list of reasons to explain this trend, including:

- *Increased competition* (since St. Greg's has begun the program, other area schools have started K3 programs at a cost lower than our tuition)
- *Changing Demographics/Socio-Economic Status* (Families who wish to attend K3 cannot afford the tuition and opt for less expensive daycare options or government funded programs such as Head Start)
- *Instability in Enrollment Projections* (enrollment projections cannot be predicted as many families wait to enroll to ensure child is ready for school)

Fr. Tom expressed that the commission needs to look at the options available for the future of the program, reminding members that we should not drift away from being a school.

Options for the program's future and a recommendation from School Commission will be presented at the next meeting.

5. School Commission Picture

A group photo of the commission was taken to be used on the School Commission page of the school website.

6. Principal's Report

Yolande distributed the current enrollment numbers with lower-than-expected enrollment in K3 and K4. A few students may still enroll.

An aide in first grade still needs to be hired. Two substitute teachers have been covering the position in the interim.

The team from the ACE Assessment held last year will be returning for a follow up meeting to discuss their findings. The process of the assessment was reviewed. School Commission is asked to have presence at this meeting and a date for the meeting will be coordinated through Yolande.

The financial summary was distributed and reviewed.

7. School Commission Membership

Two new members have resigned their positions: Chris Hodges and Rita Reikkoff

8. Marketing

Marketing continues to be a focus of the School Commission.

John has requested that members research Catholic School marketing plans and bring findings to the October meeting. Other schools' models are being investigated to see what works and prevent the need from starting a plan from scratch.

9. Parish Pastoral Council Organizational Chart

Mary distributed and explained the organizational chart of the Parish Pastoral Council and its committees

10. St. Vincent de Paul School Supply Drive

Yolande noted that the school supply drive was very successful and supplies will be stored away and used/distributed as needed.

Meeting adjourned 7:40 p.m.

Next meeting Tuesday, October 21, 2014 – 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joey Kovnesky
School Commission Secretary