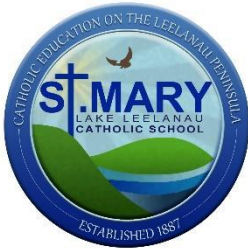


School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 22, 2021



The meeting was conducted in the church social hall to allow for proper distancing. Mike called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. and the Council prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Voting Members in attendance: Amanda Kohler, Kelly Mitchell, Peter Morio, Gretchen Mork, Cory Schaub, Laura Tarsa and Michael Wiggins. **Absent:** Jill Butryn.

Administration, Teachers and Guests in attendance: Megan Glynn, Lori Schaub, Paula Korson, Debbie Heitzman, Tina VanderWulp, Nick Papes, Nikki Ackley and Margaret Gorcyca. **Absent:** Father Bryan.

1) Approval of Minutes

- a. The meeting minutes of October 22, 2020 were previously approved via email. Note: The scheduled meetings for December 10, 2020 and February 11, 2021 had been cancelled due to COVID restrictions.

2) Council Notes

- a. Council member, Jill Butryn, had submitted her resignation from the Council via email (included) to Mike. The email was submitted prior to the meeting and she requested that her resignation be effective immediately. Her term of service on the Council was scheduled to end after the June 2021 meeting.
- b. The election of the Executive Committee's Officers will take place at the June 17, 2021 meeting. All three positions (Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary) are available for consideration.

3) Unfinished Business

- a. New Family Contacts. Peter led the discussion and asked what had been done to contact our newly enrolled school families. Debbie, Kelly, Tina and Megan (among others), commented about "new family ambassadors" reaching out to our new families. Tina had sent out packets advising new families, especially non-Catholics, "What to expect of the Catholic Church." Megan advised that postcards are being sent out to all students between now and the end of the school year. Peter suggested that we continue with the new family contacts next school year too.
- b. We are still searching for a Scribe for our SAC meetings...

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4) New Business

- a. 2021 Senior Mission Trip – Margaret Gorcyca (senior student)
Margaret provided a PowerPoint handout to the Council for review. The senior class decided to separate the “trip” and the “service hours.” The trip will include stops at Mackinac Island, Mackinaw City, Cross in the Woods, Mystery Spot and Lake Kitch-iti-kipi. A Mass at Ste. Anne’s is also on the itinerary on MI. The “service” component will be a “give back” to the teachers who have sacrificed so much to make the seniors’ quality education possible, especially considering the difficulties of the past year. The seniors have decided to provide service hours to their teachers. The teachers can use the seniors’ service in any way they need. A detailed itinerary and budget were provided. The Council voted 7-0 to approve.
- b. Parent Concerns. Amanda said that she had not received any of the expected emails to share with the Council regarding some school parents’ concerns.
- c. Enrollment. Paula and Debbie shared a spreadsheet (included) listing the school enrollment numbers as far back as the 1962-63 school year. Our low “elementary level” numbers were cited as a concern. A discussion ensued regarding recruitment and retention of students. The PTOs involvement in this area was cited. Kelly voiced a need for more PTO members (currently 3 members). Nick felt that emphasizing our recruitment effort south of M-72 in the Lake Ann area may prove beneficial. He cited the Benzie School District losing students to alternatives.
- d. “Specials Teachers” for next school year. Megan and Lori cited possible government funding to retain our teachers.
- e. School Survey. A Gaylord Diocese “Parent Satisfaction Survey” is being tailored for St. Mary School. An example of the survey was provided by Megan. The survey we looked at was targeted for Manistee Catholic Central School. Laura suggested a school survey to hear parents’ concerns especially our school’s COVID response and restrictions. A spirited discussion ensued regarding the SAC’s lack of ability to influence diocesan policy regarding COVID. It was noted that our school’s response to COVID is a diocesan response and not our individual response. Mike cited Father Bryan’s responsibility to the Bishop (Obedience Vow). Nikki suggested that individual letters, from those inclined to voice their concerns, to the diocese regarding those concerns may be effective.

5) Standing Agenda

- a. Committee Reports
 - i. Principal – Megan
The content of Megan’s report was shared in discussions above.
 - ii. Development – Paula and Debbie
A detailed written report was provided (included).
 - iii. High School – Nikki
Nikki highlighted year-to date activities by various teachers in the high school grades.

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- iv. Elementary School – Tina.
A detailed written report was provided (included).
- b. Pastor – Father Bryan was ill and could not attend.

6) Meeting Review

- a. Comments | Questions
None.
- b. Assignments for Action
 - i. Three voting-members needed to volunteer for Executive Committee positions. Election in June.
 - ii. All members need to continue to search for a Scribe for our meetings.
 - iii. All members need to recruit new voting-members.

The meeting ended at 8:42 p.m. The Council then prayed the Memorare.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 17 at 6:30 p.m. Place to be determined.

Reports Due in June: Business-Finance | Athletics | Executive Committee Elections