

# Saint Columbkille School Advisory Council

## Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2020

6:30 p.m.

~Virtual~

**Members Present:** Mike Campie, President; Brandi Redburn, Principal; Angie Eidem, Vice President; Fr. Dave Reeson, Pastor; Sarah Foreman, Assistant Principal; Michelle Black, Nick Emanuel, Renee Frankman, Jennifer Sauer, Kristen South, Kayla Uptmor, Julie Stangl

**Excused:** Michelle

**Guests:** none

### Leadership Updates:

#### Principal

##### 1. Enrollment Update - How is 2020-2021 enrollment looking?

- No indication of a problem because of the economy. Some questions about whether or not tuition will be charged from parents (tuition is still being charged even with online).
- Enrollment letters were sent out. Have received confirmation from almost 90%; this is a pretty typical response rate.
- Full in K,1,2,4,5, almost 3rd. 7th grade is light but that class has always been light.
- Enough preschoolers enrolled to fill 1 all day and 2 part time classes. Need 15 more to fill 2nd all day.
- New FACTS enrollment and school records software system still needs some work before being rolled out.

##### 2. Teacher/Hire Update - Any updates on staffing vacancies and changes?

- Interviewing all week. No positions offered as we have not been given approval to offer teacher contracts yet. There is a Finance meeting tonight and we hope to get a decision on contracts.
- Hiring for preschool, 5th grade, middle school Lit/Language teacher. One additional teacher is having a baby and has not yet determined if she's not going to come back.
- Have been given permission to hire a part time art teacher. Offer has been made and accepted.
- Staffing changes:
  - Mrs. Townsend, Library; retiring.
  - Mary Vondra to library
  - Mrs. Wildman to 5th grade math
  - Izzy McCartney as 2nd grade aid - replace
  - Dawn Espirago - leaving 5th grade to take care of grandson
  - Dianne Rosenthal - Cafeteria Manager, retiring

- Mrs. Bregelman - Extended Care Director; retiring

- 

### **3. Construction - Still planned to be on-time?**

- Construction is still on track and currently about a month ahead of original schedule.
- Target completion date = July 12.
- Groundbreaking for the school building changes scheduled for May 22.
- All projects should be complete and ready when school starts.
- Received last approval for zoning for parking across the street. All of the houses will be removed except for one house/lot which will be green space.
  
- Working on a Virtual tour of the new building. A parishioner with a drone will get video inside and outside the building. A link to the video tour will be sent out with Father Dave's weekly message.
- Big celebration tent scheduled for Sept. 13.
- There is a bit of a financial gap that we're going to solicit additional funds. Engage larger parish as this project includes the Parish Center and is not just for the school.

### **4. Finances - I can imagine our parish tithing is not looking very healthy with lack of weekly collections. How is this potentially impacting the school? What are options to address?**

- Good news: St. Columbkille applied for and were granted the Paycheck Protection employment for a couple of months.
- Doing pretty well in tithing. The low point was in mid March - March 15 was a small mass and the next week, March 22, was very low. Concentrated effort to go on line to encourage people to support the church. March 29 tithing was up to \$44k, early April was \$68k, Easter was \$62k but more is still coming in. We should be ok.
- We have received and fulfilled a lot of requests for help. Hoping and praying for continued success.
- Capital campaign - construction loan is locked in for 2 years; may re-negotiate it to a lower rate.

### **5. Policies - Are we thinking about changes or updates to policies as a result of this pandemic?**

- Have not currently identified any scenarios so far where the policies are tested.
- Administrators are meeting tomorrow morning. Brandi will add it to the agenda. School will review current sick policies, temperature taking, remote learning policies for missed attendance, etc.

### **6. SAC Positions for next year - now is usually the time for soliciting new members.**

- 3 members whose terms are complete: Mike, Angie, and Kayla
- Angie will create an email for Brandi to send out to all parents.
- All current, remaining members need all of us to discern commitment for the next school year.
- There were a lot of applicants last year. Potential to reach out to those who had expressed interest.
- Recommended changes to the selection process.
  - Make the process more low key. Less formal interview and questions.
  - Provide an overview of SAC for the group.

- Post meeting, ask them to reconfirm if they'd still want to do it.
- We need to establish a back up plan for a virtual interview

## **7. SAME/STEM program 2020-21**

- SAME: Mrs. Cavanaugh was interested in sponsoring it this year. Brandi to follow up with her to see if she's interested next year.
- STEM: Mrs. Wildman is the point person. Kayla will start discussions in mid May to plan for the fall. Kayla and Brandi will determine what we need to do now to be ready in the fall.

## **8. Distance Learning:**

- It's going ok. Would much prefer to have the kids at school. Making progress / making improvements.
- Parent feedback is that it has been handled well. Older kids are pretty self sufficient. Younger kids - liked having the daily schedules with the links vs. providing the work for the whole week. Consistency matters.
- The teachers are making adjustments / tweaks every week based on what they're hearing from parents.
- No communication from the state or archdiocese regarding the fall. But, St. C. is starting to make contingency plans. St. C calendar is flexible but would prefer to NOT start remotely in August. One area of focus, if that happens, would be on a more robust feedback / grading process.

## **9. Program status - Confirmation/8th Grade Dinner/Dance and Graduation**

- The Commissioner of Education for NE came out with strict guidelines and recommendations: no graduations / no gatherings in May.
- Currently no set plans or dates but will definitely do something. We would like to have the 8th grade dinner and dance in the summer. Won't set dates yet.
- 8th grade graduation: Planning to do something for kids at home on the day they would have graduated. Brainstorming ideas, e.g. dropping off diploma/balloons/gift bag/take pictures and put in a video. 8th grade memory book and video are still being made.
- We will have confirmation and first communion at some point.

## **10. Misc.**

- No gatherings in parking lots. All extracurriculars are canceled.
- Great slide show from the teachers. Students and parents appreciated and enjoyed it.
- The Catholic Schools are getting a new superintendent, Vicky Kaufhold, assistant super now. taking over at the end of June. Current super is in his 3rd year, resigning and moving back to the East coast.
- Virtual Spirit Week - next week. Priests are going to start producing 1 children's liturgy a week, starting next week on Wed.
- Summer Religious Ed is canceled. Vacation Bible School is also canceled.
- Stress levels from families - no communication to Brandi in the last week. Getting into the swing of things and/or more comfortable not doing things. Brandi has reached out to families that may have concerns about food or violence.
- Anything we can do to help? American Heritage girls are doing a food drive that we could piggy back on. Kayla - will ask them and let us know. Email Brandi if we hear of anything else.