

Holy Childhood of Jesus School

School Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday December 7th, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m. – Holy Childhood School

Call to Order: 6:30 (Mike Klein)

Opening Prayer: Patrick Stumpf

Attendance: Father Mark Stec (absent), Principal – Tim Keefe, President- Mike Klein, Matt Schroeder, Patrick Stumpf, Amy Uptergrove, Mike Brennan, Eliot Deters, Mykale Elbe, Deacon Dan Cozzi (absent), Don Norrenberns,

Guests: Debbie Bunn

Approval of Previous Minutes (emailed out previously by Amy Uptergrove). One minor typo identified and corrected. Motion to approve (Mike Brennan), second (Patrick Stumpf)

Principal's Report (Mr. Keefe)

- I. General Information
 - a. Activities: Mr. Keefe provided an update on upcoming an recent events to include "Santa's Cottage" and the upcoming K-4 Christmas Concert.
 - b. Empower Update: The Empower legislation did not pass. As discussed previously, this will impact many schools in the Diocese. The board discussed that there could potentially be a need to explore ways to assist some families with scholarships/tuition assistance. This could get very complex and sensitive, so the board is also interested in whether the Diocese is discussing this topic as well. Fr Mark, Tim Keefe, and Don Norrenberns will be meeting in January to discuss.
 - c. Middle School Lockers: Lockers were purchased and have been installed. The lockers look very sharp and the kids/teachers are very appreciative for the new usable space.

- II. Faith Formation
 - a. Daughter's of St Paul Event: Don Norrenberns also mentioned that there are currently 725 people signed up to attend the Come to Bethlehem concert on December 14th.
 - b. 6-8th Grade Field Trip – Thank you to the Serra Club and Mr. and Mrs. Polka for reaching out to HCS and supporting the trip.

- c. Catholic Schools Week” Committee has met and started developing the vision. Each grade will choose a service project to work that week. Week will kick-off with Open House on January 28th and end with Munchkin Basketball event on Fri.

III. Curriculum & Extracurricular

- a. Scholastic Book Fair: The recent book fair was a success. The Diocese is exploring other options for book companies with more faith-based literature than the current offerings from Scholastic.
- b. Assessment: Mr. Keefe distributed the Iowa test assessment results that showed comparison of HCS to overall Diocesan results.
- c. Progress Monitoring - IXL
 - i. Mr. Keefe stated that HCS will again utilize IXL next summer. He is also exploring other ways teachers can utilize IXL to monitor progress throughout the year. A “leaderboard” may be used as an incentive to get the kids excited about it. He is also looking into possible funding options for using Title Funds and/or partnering with Mascoutah School District.

IV. Employees & Employment

- a. Maintenance and Custodial Needs
 - i. A new Director of Maintenance has been hired as well as additional part-time assistance.

V. Technology

- a. Chromebooks: A portion of the “Fund a Need” proceeds were used to purchase new chromebooks for 7th/8th grade classes. John Grawitch is in the process of setting up the new chromebooks. The goal is to purchase on a recurring replacement “cycle” which supports the Tech & Infrastructure line of effort of the school’s Strategic Plan.
- b. Second Semester Planning: Mr. Patriquin is developing ideas to implement using the 3D printer.

VI. School in the Community

- a. Purple Star Update: The State of IL is not moving out on this, but HCS will continue our efforts.
- b. Open House: Open House is scheduled for January 28th. Request a few 8th graders be identified to conduct tours and talk to potential students. The board

discussed placement of banners at key intersections to ensure maximum visibility by local traffic and Scott AFB.

- c. Board discussed importance of marketing of the specific unique components and benefits of Catholic School education vs public, especially since we live in a very good school district.

Organizational Reports:

Athletics: HCS is in need of a Volleyball Coach (Junior Boys).

HOPE: HOPE is finalizing details on the visit from Santa scheduled for December 20th. The team is on the process of planning the Daddy/Daughter dance projected for February 17th.

Old Business

Annual Fund review: Board discussed future of annual fund and projected focus areas for this year. The possibility of using an on-line service in the future still needs to be explored. Newsletter containing accomplishments and highlights will be returning. Debbie Bunn and several board members the importance of transparency in regard to use/intent if funds in important, especially if a significant shift is considered in response to the Empower program ending.

Casino Night: Reminder that the School Board will host Casino Night on February 3rd, 2024 in partnership with "Chick" Fritz Distributing.

New Business

- a. Catholic School's Week Planning: The committee has begun planning the week's activities which kick-off January 28th. Additional details in Principal's report.
- b. Munchkin Basketball Night: Scheduled for February 2nd (last day of Catholic School's Week).
- c. Principal Appraisal Reminder: Mr. Keefe reminded board members that appraisals must be turned into Fr Mark by February.
- d. Future of Standards/Grades in Education: For situational awareness, Mr. Keefe distributed a couple of articles that show a couple of initiatives/areas of thought that could potentially impact grading systems at all education levels across the U.S. in future years.

Next Meeting Date: Next meeting scheduled for January 18th, 6:30 pm in Parish Center

Closing Prayer: Mike Brennan

Meeting Adjourned: 7:50 pm

Executive Session – N/A