

St. Nicholas Total Board of Education

Minutes

November 3, 2015

7:30 PM Notre Dame Room

Attendees: Chris Schmidt, Mark Vander Linden, Bob Schommer, Kathy Brockman, Father Walter.

Excused: Ms. Morrin, Kathy Brennan, Leah Van Handel, Ed Krejcie, Mike Vander Loop, Jeremy Kater

Open Floor: N/A

Approval of the Agenda: Bob Schommer makes the motion to approve the agenda. Kathy Brockman seconds. All in favor, motion passes.

Valley Area Special Needs: N/A

Approval of the Minutes: Chris Schmidt makes the motion to approve the minutes. Bob Schommer seconds. All in favor, motion passes.

Pastor's Comments:

1. Youth Choir is gaining traction. Several students are coming forward and many good comments are being received.
2. A 5-year strategic plan has been finalized. It includes the Objectives, Goals and Action Steps that will be followed by designated committees in the parish. We will look for people to step forward for three new committees in the parish: Stewardship, Living Justice, and Hospitality.
3. A 1 Year action plan was outlined. The Board of Education has two Objectives to work on over the next year:
 - Investigate and begin steps toward accreditation for Religious Education and Catholic School.
 - Develop plan to engage students in an improved Catholic Identity in Religious Education and Catholic School.

Bob Schommer asked about the status of the School's accreditation. It was discussed that little was left behind from the previous school principal in terms of documentation, and our understanding is that the progress toward accreditation during her tenure was not as

far along as had been communicated. Chris and Mark shared that Ms. Morin has shared that she is making progress in this area. They added that they feel much more confident given that Ms. Morrin has recently gone through accreditation with St. Edwards School in Mackville. Her experience in the process will help move this forward within a desirable timeframe.

4. Committee members are asked to serve a designated term of time. The goal is to have new people join leadership roles over time. The goal is to stagger members appointments to provide continuation.
5. Stewardship Weekend is November 14-15th.
6. Doug Barry's presentation was very well received and powerful!
7. Thursday December 3rd is Parish Reconciliation. Bob Schommer made a suggestion that reconciliation be strongly encouraged – or even required for the confirmation class. Bob added that he would like to see additional classes provided with reconciliation throughout the year.
8. Teaching Psalms to children
9. Convocation – James Healy; Making Happiness a Habit, four steps to a More Joyful Marriage
Alice Heinzen – How the Synod of families changes the way we do ministry
Julianne Stanz – How to encourage evangelization through story.

Financial Reports – Abbreviated financial reports as of 10/31/2015 were shared. Discussion was shared that financials have started out the year on a good note. While data has been limited, we have the impression that the year is off to a good start.

Administrative Reports

1. New Evangelization Program: Kathy was not able to attend, but provided a report and enrollment breakdown for all to review.
2. St. Nicholas Catholic School: Becky Morin was not able to attend, but provided a report for all to review.

Committee Reports – Father Walter: Reports were included in the Pastor Comments.

Old Business –

1. Youth Choir: It was discussed that the Youth Choir is receiving many positive comments. It is our hope that the choir will grow over time.
2. United Community Fundraising Option: We discussed that this program can provide additional funding for three areas of the parish: New Evangelization, Catholic School, and the overall Parish. We discussed that a concern is if this would reduce participation in SCRIP; given that SCRIP is a more profitable program overall. It was discussed that since SCRIP can directly be tracked for each families benefit, SCRIP will remain a

primary program. The United Community program will provide general funds to each of the proposed parts, rather than benefiting each participating family. We agreed that it is “easy” to do for some families and their friends since it only requires an initial signup. The funding then flows to each program without a lot of tracking.

New Business – Father Walter informed the board that Ed Krejcie had recently written him a letter. In it he discussed that he had some concerns and that he felt that in the end, it was necessary for him to resign from the Total Board of Education.

Father Walter then asked for any nominations for additional members of the Total Board of Education. Several suggestions were made. We agreed that it is important to enlist the help of additional individuals. Father Walter said that he would give consideration to the individuals that were discussed. He will then reach out to individuals to see if they are willing to serve.

Executive Session – Father Walter called the group into Executive Session. We exited Executive Session at 9:02 PM.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday December 1st, 2015.