

May 30, 2019, Minutes of Old St. Mary's School Board meeting.

PRESENT: Fr, Brad, Sunny Chico, Julie Martin, Robert Schwendau, George Mattes, Josie Disterhoft, Julie Marcus, Laura Vinci, Mark Stern, Catherine Lopez, Jeannie Schoolmeester, Katie Cahill, Kymberly Marrinson.

Absent: Fr. Paul Novak, Mary Ellen Gornick.

1. The Minutes of the March 4, 2019, meeting were approved unanimously.
2. Financial Vitality Committee Report was given by George Mattes, chair.

See attached 3-page report distributed to all Board members of their meeting of May 8, 2019.

3. Advancement Report given by Kymberly Marrinson.
 - a. Enrollment goal for 2019-2020 is 512 students; as of today 506 students are enrolled.
 - b. Development: \$155,000 was raised by the Gala for the teachers' fund.
 - c. The desired class size is 25 students with principal and pastor discretion to increase. Previously approved by Board.
 - d. Nineteen students did not re-enroll at OSM.
 - e. October Fest 2019 is already being prepared. Other social fund-raising events for January and spring 2020 have been initiated.
4. Principal's Report given by Mrs. Martin.
 - a. Noted that over the summer families moving will affect enrollment.
 - b. Teacher contracts were due May 15. A number of teachers are leaving for various reasons. More information on teachers who are leaving will be included in the principal's blog next Tuesday, June 4.
 - c. The archdiocesan theme of schools for 2019-2020 is "Angels Among Us."
 - d. Progress on Old St. Mary's involvement w. the Museum of Science & Industry, which began in August, 2018, is going well. OSM's science program is being rated.

- e. The school is awaiting publication of the National Blue Ribbon awardees in September, 2019.
5. Pastor's Report by Fr. Brad Schoeberle.
- a. Conversation continues among the collaborating parishes of the Archdiocese's Renew My Church project.
 - b. World Day of the Poor will be commemorated in November.
 - c. Ecumenical discussions continue on the topic of social justice.
 - d. Fr. Steve Petroff will be leaving Old St. Mary's in August for a new assignment as associate at the Paulist parish in Rome. His replacement at OSM is Fr. William Stuart-Smith.
 - e. Several of our priests attended the Paulist ordination in NYC.
 - f. The parish is looking at the school and Sunday liturgies to help parishioners understand better and get more involved.
 - g. Principal Search: It was reported that there are fewer candidates than were expected. Several interviews of candidates were not successful, and the committee is considering an interim principal for a limited period. Target date is June 15, 2019.
6. Closing Remarks by chairperson Sunny Chico.
- a. Farewell and appreciation remarks to Julie Martin and Katie Cahill.
 - b. Areas of accomplishment over the past few years:
 - Working committees have been put in place.
 - A Strategic Plan was accomplished and finalized.
 - OSM School is in demand, a sign of its presence, vitality and quality in the South Loop.
 - Great hopes our school will be named a Blue Ribbon school.
 - A full-time Director of Advancement is in place.
 - A quality school board exists.
 - Museum of Science & Industry partnership solidified.
 - New board members for 2019-2020: Chris & Sam Kelly; Paula McQuaid; Robbie Anderson.
 - Congratulations are due to the new chair of the school board, Ms. Julie Marcus, a long-time support to the parish and school.

7. Board members Sunny Chico, George Mattes, Fr. Paul Novak and Bob Schwendau have completed their terms on the Board as of this meeting. Acknowledgment of their service was noted.
8. Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Questions of guests in attendance at the meeting were entertained. Discussion centered on the following topics:

1. Fourth grade enrollment topic. The desired class size is 25 students per classroom with pastor and principal discretion to increase. This is the Board-approved policy.
2. Concern shown over the high rate (25%) teacher turnover. This topic needs to be analyzed and discussed in the future.
3. It was suggested that in the hiring process some faculty should be among those doing the interviews for new teachers.
4. Concern also was voiced on the timing re: a new administration and when it will be in place for the 2019-2020 school year. The Board noted that a process is in place, and the process is working.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Schwendau, secretary

