

**Old St. Mary's School Board  
January 27, 2021 Minutes**

**School Board Administration**

Laura reviewed some administrative updates. The School Board page of the OSM School website has been updated to include more information about the Task Teams of the strategic plan and how to get involved with each of those areas including the co-chairs' contact information. At the beginning of the pandemic, the Board moved to virtual meetings, because the site is not secure, we do not include the Board meeting zoom link on the site but instruction on the site was to contact the chair or co-chair for the zoom meeting link. Based on some feedback, in 2021 Diana has begun sending the zoom meeting link in the Sunday night update prior to each meeting. In terms of getting involved with the School Board, there will be one open seat for the next year in 2021-22 and Laura will talk with Fr. Brad about filling the seat for next year. Laura underscored that we need to continue educate parents that school operations and any questions about those operational decisions need to be funneled to Diana and the School Board's function is advisory in nature, specifically as it relates to the school's strategic plan.

**Strategic Plan**

**Academic Excellence** – Matt Smith, who co-chairs the AE Task Team with Kimberly Cook provided an update to the School Board. Last year a lot of our work was focused on the teacher compensation and bonus structure. This year we'll be pivoting to more of what the title of our team name suggests, OSM academic excellence.

**2021 Task Team Charge:**

- Support and strengthening OSM's Instructional Program/Practices
  - Focus on Rigor, Enrichment, Engagement, Differentiation and Booster

**Overarching questions and areas we'd like to tackle:**

- Support the Facilitation of an Academic Open House/"State of the Union" by grade bands.
- Work with the OSM Leadership on improving academic rigor, in class instruction, student demonstrated skills, national test scores & high school preparedness
- As parents & academic boosters support and create a resource bank for academic enrichment. (model- <https://york.elmhurst205.org/parentstudent-resources/ptsa/academic-committee-ptsa>)

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- Consider how parents can support each other with academic expectations and in general the school's current instructional improvement goals.
- Look at what life after OSM looks like for our students/graduates.
  - How are we preparing our children for success at topflight high schools and beyond?

Diana spoke to our standardized testing and shared that we are never teaching to the MAP test; need curriculum tied to common core standards. Writing to explain thinking, weak standards in subjects. Bringing someone in to work with teachers on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

***Diversity Equity & Inclusion*** – Omar Duque who co-chairs the DEI Committee with Quinn Harris provided an updated to the School Board. The DEI Committee is working with Hans and Carrie (Governance & Leadership Task Team Co-Chairs) and looking at DEI; thought at the time it was important to come together and develop a statement around our values as pertaining to DEI. Started in Fall 2019 and Covid caused a pause, but everything occurring in the nation re: injustice thought it was critical to come together. Sought member from community, family with the support of Fr. Brad and Diana, produced a statement and added it to site. More than 35 family members, faculty and staff want to participate in the committee. Quinn Harris also volunteered. Matt Smith, Jen, Kimberly, Eileen...

Committee has been hard at work, meeting monthly since formed and recently had an engaging meeting.

Working on a baseline D&I survey to send out to families and other constituencies. Received much thoughtful feedback from committee and the hope is to get an idea of challenges and areas for improvement from surveys. Goal of the survey is to develop a roadmap of how to make OSM inclusive and welcoming—the most in Chicago.

Diana: this is hard work. People committed to bridging gaps and conversation is inspirational and Omar is a great leader.

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Omar: work is important and the entire community benefits from this work.

**School Spotlight:**

Megan Witte and Elizabeth Duff joined us. Elizabeth Teacher Leader in K-5 and ELA 6<sup>th</sup> grade and instructional coaching/supports teachers. Megan teacher leader in charge of mentors for new teachers and new math curriculum in lower grades.

Elizabeth Duff: CSIP Reading/shared slide to show results from MAP testing last Fall. Identified 3 SMART goals and the plan to have a personal development day on 2/12 whereby teachers will meet with all teachers K-8 to discuss uniform additions to CER-related language throughout the second semester and identify opportunities for interdisciplinary writing units.

Megan Witte: CSIP Math/shared slide SMART goals and action plan as well as an example of how the “claim”, “evidence” and “reasoning” works and how they can explain mathematical reasoning.

Diana/School Spotlight: Catholic Schools Week events shared.

Fr Brad/Parish Update: Artist has provided 12 portraits of people of color, some religious, some color for BHM. Cards and other items are available on Etsy.

Also going to bring in a picture of Amanda Gorman, who was the poet at the inauguration. She will also do a poet at the Superbowl. She is the Granddaughter of a parishioner and she is a Catholic Parishioner at St. Bridget's in Los Angeles.

**Parish Report**

Fr. Brad provided an updated on the Parish including Lenten activities that will be available to the Parish community this year. He also shared that the Arch is offering parishes an opportunity to be engaged in community outreach to promote peace in their communities. Each parish has been asked to look at causes of violence within their respective communities and recommend solutions to reduce this violence. He shared that he reached out to the parent group who worked on opposing the dispensary to join in these efforts.

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**Family & School Association**

Jen Funches, FSA President provided an update. There are 3 pillars and aligning FSA committees under the 3 pillars. Explaining structure of FSA, focus on priorities of remainder of the year. Feels like we are in a place where there is a strong focus on community and involvement. Volunteer efforts look different but there are still ways to get involved. Julie, Laura, Angie and Jen will lead Feb 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Blue Ribbon Fund: Chris asked status. Percentage of people participating? Shannon: pledged or paid \$152K. Goal is \$240K. Participation is about 30% of total families. Comparison of last year. We had about 68% participation of families. Tax credit scholarship we currently have 31 students, 19 current applied. To date, including 2 for 1 match from Arch; we will have raised \$150K. 145K of 240K earmarked for teachers and was not part of operating budget. Want to mention Mary Lowe asking for parent champions by grade level at the start of next week.

Maybe cut off Jan/Feb last year, but we will take a donation until end of fiscal year (end of June).

Chris is hopeful we can have some sort of spring fundraising event in May, safely of course.